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Muah Chee!

Try my recipe for cooking the perfect **Muah Chee** using a Bread Maker!





PREP 10 MINS / COOK 2 HRS / SERVES 6

Ingredients

- 250 g glutinous rice flour
- 375 ml water
- 1 tbsp shallot oil
- 60 g fine sugar
- 150 g ground peanut
- Some roasted sesame seeds, blended

4 Easy Steps

1. Mix together glutinous rice flour, water and shallot oil, and place in bread pan.
2. With 10 mins left, stir dough with wooden chopstick.
3. When about to serve, mix together sugar, ground peanut and blended sesame seeds.
4. Once dough is ready, cut into bite-sized pieces and coat with peanut mixture.

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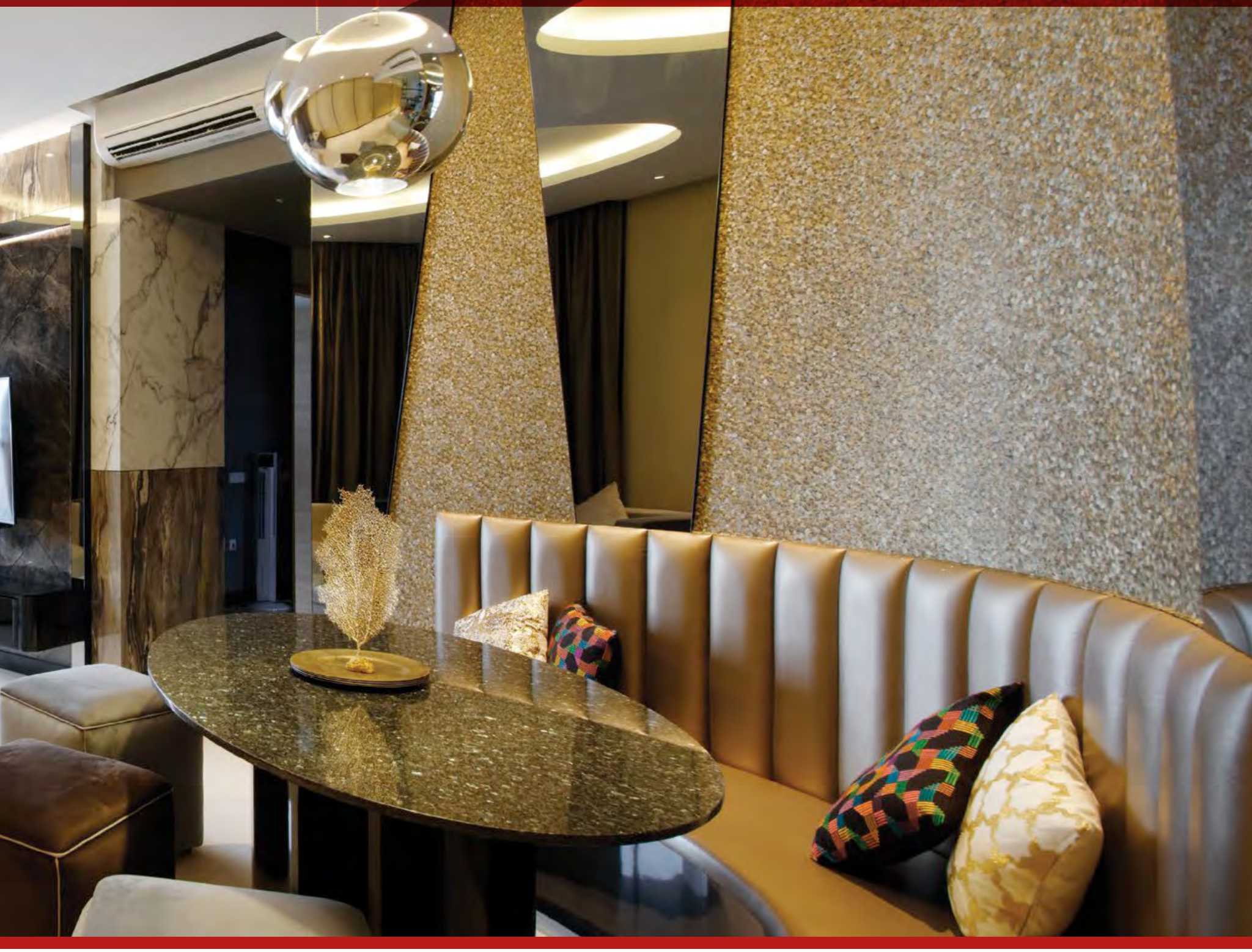








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PROMISING SME500 2015

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DECEMBER 2015



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ART DIRECTION Neo Aik Sing
PHOTOGRAPHY Justin Loh

Moveable panels affixed with artificial plants and vinyl decals make for a flexible feature wall cum display niche.





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Comfort in familiarity

Settling in Singapore after living in Tokyo for many years yet still being able to choose the same line of furniture as his home in Tokyo provided a sense of familiarity to Mitsuya Nakata.

WHO
Mitsuya Nakata,
a bachelor in his early 30s

HOME
One-bedroom condominium
at Beach Road







TOP
Mr Nakata needed a book shelf to house his extensive book collection. BoConcept interior decorator, David recommended a white Meda book shelf to fit all his books to avoid leaving a cluttered and heavy look.

LEFT
"Cool and Intelligent" was what Mr Nakata wanted to exude in his home. As requested, a cool palette was chosen by adding touches of colours such as blue, green and grey, as seen from the artwork to his cushions and accessories.

David Anderberg Interior Decorator at BoConcept



WHAT INSPIRES YOU?
Working with interior decoration for 8 years, I have heard many inspiring life stories of how people live and stories from different cultures and sub-cultures. This greatly inspires and drives me to create amazing homes for my clients.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR WORK?
I feel an overwhelming sense of accomplishment when happy clients tell me "We can't wait to receive our new BoConcept furniture!"

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED DECORATING HOMES?
One of my biggest challenges was to design a living room for a household of four friends with individual styles. Although there were heated moments due to their separate opinions, I worked closely with each of them and designed a home that accommodates each of their design requirements.

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celebrate in style

The end of the year is a time to take stock of the 12 months that have passed, and plan for the year ahead.

Take inspiration from our Style story where we gather chic kitchen, dining and living room ideas to make your friends and family feel more welcome (page 38). After all, this is the time for feasting, celebrating and spending time with our nearest and dearest.

A home that is full of warmth is one that feels most inviting. Check out our Shop guide on rustic accessories (page 50) that are sure to elevate the ambiance of your home. We also share some DIY ideas for handmade Christmas decorations (page 54) to imbue your home with that special festive cheer. And to help you organise the best party this season, our entertaining guide has got you covered (page 60).

As usual, we have packed this issue with an array of gorgeous homes to inspire your home improvement efforts. We hope that you have had a wonderful year, and that you have a merry and bright Christmas.

See you next year!

Jolene

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EXPERIENCE IT

Moroso has launched a 2,551-square foot flagship showroom in Seoul as part of their partnership with Barunson Group. Located at the Gangnam shopping district, this showroom, spanning over three floors, is specifically designed by the Moroso creative team to convey the brand's ultimate goal: to showcase the beauty of design. A dedicated space for the relaxed and fun Diesel Living collection is located at the basement. In addition, iconic pieces from Moroso, such as the Gentry Sofa designed by Patricia Urquiola and the Moon Chair designed by Japanese designer Tokujin Yoshinoka are exhibited on the first and second storeys.

For more information, visit www.moroso.it

Nordic Delights

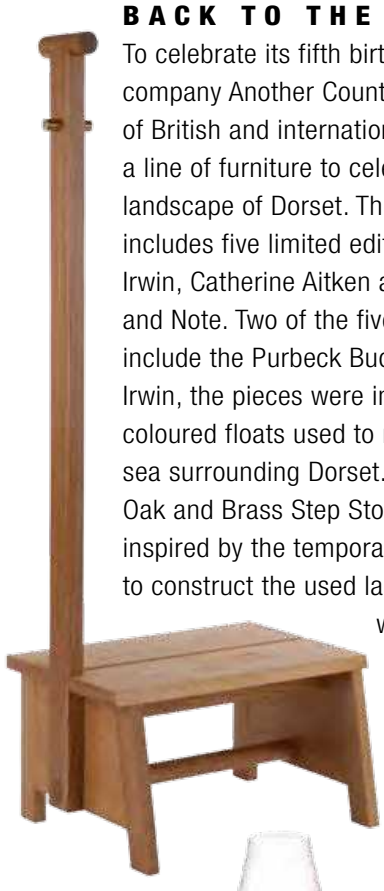
Accessorising is the easiest way to update your existing decor without the fuss of a complete renovation.
The soft greys, deep charcoals and calming creams of Scandi Living's newest products are perfect for creating a tranquil ambiance to relax and unwind in. Cosy up on the sofa with the plush Need throw featuring a beautiful grey and ecru Nordic design, or scatter the Lassie and Ridgewood cushions for a sophisticated statement. Also in the Scandi-style collection are the gorgeous Pappelina rugs made from soft woven plastic that are lovingly crafted on a traditional loom using wooden shuttles in Dalarna, Sweden. They are extremely hardy and stylish yet practical, making them perfect for the busy household.

For more information, visit www.scandiliving.com





BACK TO THE ROOTS



To celebrate its fifth birthday, craft furniture company Another Country commissioned a group of British and international designers to create a line of furniture to celebrate the history and landscape of Dorset. This anniversary collection includes five limited edition pieces from David Irwin, Catherine Aitken and Studio Dessuant Bone and Note. Two of the five pieces in this collection include the Purbeck Buoys. Designed by David Irwin, the pieces were inspired by the brightly coloured floats used to mark lobster traps in the sea surrounding Dorset. Another piece, the Solid Oak and Brass Step Stool by Catherine Aitkin, was inspired by the temporary wooden frames used to construct the used land boundaries, dry stone walls and hedgerows seen widely in the region.

For more information, visit www.anothercountry.com



BEYOND THE HORIZON



Items in Thibaut's latest collection, Trade Routes, are inspired by handcrafted and primitive techniques from faraway places. You can find items befitting your home such as wallpapers, printed fabrics and woven and embroidered pieces in this collection. Inspired by the spice trading port in Southwest India, the Cochin pattern consists of labyrinthine and shapely details of stylised trees in bold colours. Other marvellous prints to consider for your next wallpaper change are the colour screen print of water plants, Narrangasett, and the modern paisley motifs in Medallion Paisley.

For more information, visit www.thibautdesign.com



Glow Up

Created using 32 paper fins slotted together to make an elegant and lightweight silhouette, the Beam table lamp manufactured by Lane is a contemporary take on the classic concertina form. Paper fins of the lamp, comprising four sheets of paper, are secured together to make a thick card. To ensure its high quality, the paper was made in Cambria by one of the oldest mills in the United Kingdom. With the interplay of light and shadow, the fins create the impression of glowing, transparent colours. The Beam table lamp is made entirely in England with a total of four colour palettes that include Ebony Black with Natural detail, Smoke Grey and Factory Yellow, Pale Grey and China White, and Tabriz Blue and Sorbet Yellow.

For more information, visit www.lanebypost.com

Powerful Collaboration

Spanish surface producer Consentino is collaborating with top Singapore restaurant, Restaurant Andre, to showcase its new ultra-compact surface called Dekton. Featuring a sleek and clean aesthetic, the surfaces at the fine dining establishment are made from three different designs from the Dekton by Cosentino Spring 2015 Collection. Dekton is made for busy kitchen worktops, furniture and flooring both in private homes and professional spaces for it is fire- and heat-resistant. It is also suitable for the outdoors thanks to its unique UV resistance. With a wide variety of designs and colours, you can now have an effective and efficient space without compromising your style.

Available at Cosentino City Singapore, 34/35 Duxton Road, Singapore 089499, tel: 6713 9543, www.dekton.com.sg





STATEMENT LAMP

With its design based on the Fibonacci sequence, a mathematical formula that forms a spiral pattern, the Patera lamp ($1,818) designed by Øivind Slaatto for Louis Poulsen is a work of art and science. The ball-shaped pendant floats like a majestic focal point in the room, all thanks to its intricate design of differently positioned cells. Emitting a soft and pleasant light, the luminaire is suitable for a variety of settings including living and dining rooms as well as hallways and entrances.

Available at Louis Poulsen, 5 Purvis Street, #01-02, Singapore 188584, tel: 6339 6086, www.louispoulsen.com

KEEPING IT SMALL

Brandt's new multipurpose and stainless steel mixing bowl the Kitchen Mixer ($399) consists of six mixing speeds, a pulse function that can be controlled with an easy-to-use electronic control dial, a 1.5-litre detachable glass blender jug and a dishwasher safe anti-splatter mixing cover. You can save space by attaching the glass blender on top of the mixer and ensure a clean and safe kitchen with the anti-splatter mixing cover and anti-slip base. Complete your appliance with accessories such as a doughhook, egg beater and whipped cream whipper.

Available at all major electronic and department stores



One Stop Shop

Spreading over 100,000 square feet, the new Harvey Norman Flagship Superstore opens at Millenia Walk this month. The electronics and home appliances retailer has closed its doors on the second level of the mall and moved into its very own wing located along Raffles Boulevard. With three levels dedicated to a comprehensive range of electronics, IT, furniture and bedding, the sprawling retail destination is the first of its kind in Singapore. From a collection of gadgets and appliances like TVs, cooker hobs and hoods, home theatre systems, smartphones and notebooks to premium furniture and bedding products from Scandinavia, shoppers will be able to find everything they need to furnish and equip their homes here. The Harvey Norman Flagship Superstore is holding its Grand Opening Event from 12 to 13 December, where they will be hosting plenty of exciting activities and offering special deals. Come down and join in the celebration!

Located at 9 Raffles Boulevard, Harvey Norman Flagship Superstore at Millenia Walk, tel: 6311 9988, www.harveynorman.com.sg

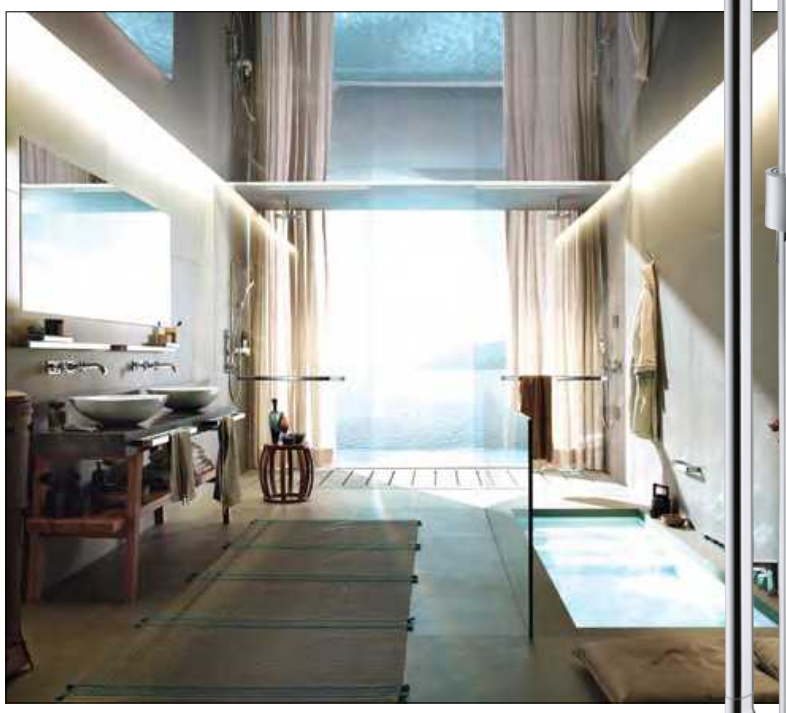
Grand Opening
12-13 Dec 2015
at Harvey Norman Millenia Walk



KEEPING WITH TRADITION

With a strong heritage of traditional craftsmanship, Danish furniture maker Overgaard & Dyrman merges the old and new with its exquisite collection of handcrafted furniture pieces. The handsome collection of chairs, sofas and tables is now available at Dream. Of note is Wire, a piece inspired by traditional saddlery and metalwork. With its fine balance between functionality, ergonomics and detailed craftmanship, this piece and the rest of the collection are made to last a lifetime.

Available at 456 River Valley Road, Singapore 248342, tel: 6235 0220, www.dream.com.sg





UP YOUR GAME

Exhibiting modern and streamlined features, and smooth, clean lines, Hansgrohe's Axor Citterio E collection of bathroom fixtures is meant to elevate your bath time into a spa-like experience. With products that range from washbasins and bathtubs to thermostatic bath mixers and shower sets, the collection by Italian architect and designer Antonio Citterio is not only aesthetically pleasing, it is also highly functional. The various handles of the thermostat modules allow the user to intuitively grasp their functions. For instance, the cross-handle controls water volume and the cylindrical thermostat handle controls temperature. Shower sets are fitted with Hansgrohe's Select Thermostat technology, where a simple push of a button and easy-to-understand icons allow one to switch between hand, side and overhead showers.

Available at 69 Mohamed Sultan Road, Singapore 239015, tel: 6884 5060, www.hansgrohe.com.sg



DELICATE AND EXQUISITE

Fritz Hansen recently released their limited edition Swan chair. Made with high quality nubuck leather, which is known as a natural leather with velvet-like touch and a silky soft surface that provides optimal seating comfort, this elegant and timeless piece is made with painstaking craftsmanship in top-quality materials and are available in two colours, dusty rose and lyme grass.

Available at W. Atelier, 75 Bukit Timah Road #01-01/02, Singapore 229833, tel: 6270 8828, www.watelier.com

Anytime And Anywhere

Fill your home with good quality music with the new Bose SoundTouch10 wireless music system ($399). Not only can you stream any song, playlist, music service and YouTube videos directly from your phone or tablet with the Bluetooth and Wi-Fi function, you can also broadcast it to as many SoundTouch speakers you have as well. With Bose's digital signal processing and the new unidome transducer, the powerhouse produces high excursion for any transducer of its size. You can even use the intuitive SoundTouch app to explore integrated music services such as Spotify and Deezer.

Available at major electronic and department stores





MAKE IT YOURS

Personalise your world starting from the walls of your home with the Dulux Ambiance paint series. Created by colour experts and designers based on an advanced paint formulation, proud homeowners can now turn inspiration into personalised reality. Made up of two main components, the Dulux Ambiance range consists of the Dulux Ambiance All and the Dulux Ambiance Special Effects Paint. Choose from a deep and intense colour palette that can reflect your personal style and taste with Ambiance All, a selection of premium interior wall paints. As for the Ambiance Special Effects, it is a selection of fine featured finishes and textures such as Linen, Marble, Metallic and Velvet, that can add physical and visual dimension to bring a unique touch to your walls.

For more information, visit www.dulux.com.sg/ambiance



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POA at XTRA



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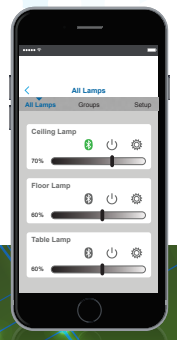


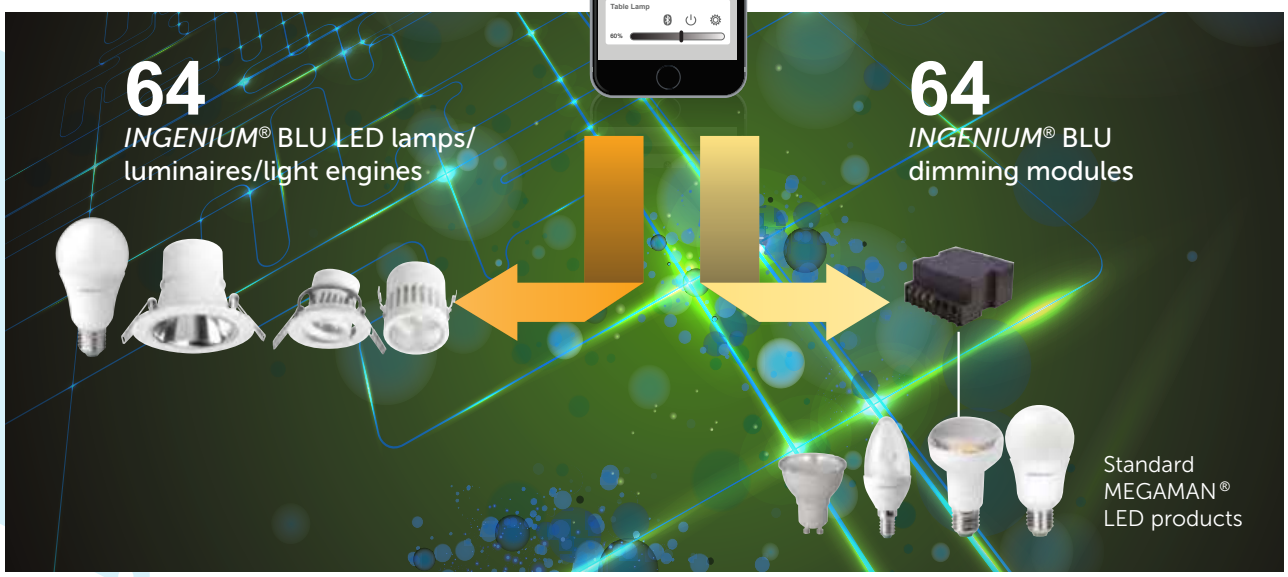
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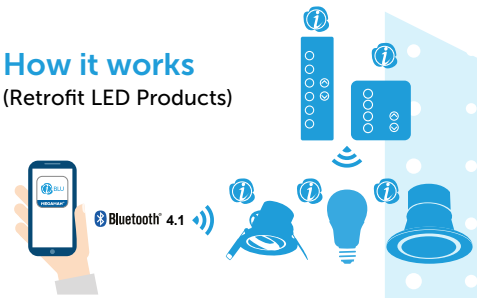
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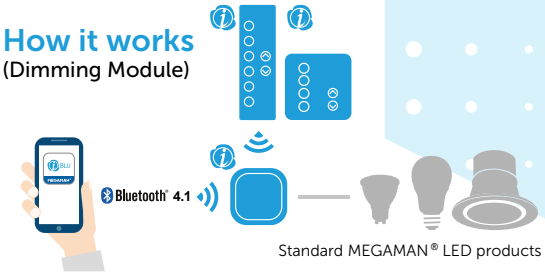
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BLU MEGAMAN®

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in the RED

Bright and joyful, the crimson hue is iconic at every party season

TEXT & COORDINATION
Yuen Yi Ying

THE HARVARD RECLINER
$4,495 at BoConcept

FOSCARINI LUMIERE TABLE LAMP
POA at XTRA

MINI RED CONSOLE TABLE
$389 at CB2

NORMAL EXTRA NORMAL CASUAL WATCH
$275 at HipVan

HERMAN MILLER WIREFRAME SOFA
POA at XTRA

VITRA EAMES ELEPHANT
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* Terms & conditions apply



Velaria doors are made to measure with an exceptionally slim aluminium frame that maximises the lustrous aesthetic of Rimadesio glass.

HOME AWAY *from home*

Make yourself at home at House of Madison, a newly-launched retail experience that is set to change the way you shop

TEXT Ho Pei Ying **PHOTOS COURTESY OF** The Madison Group



The 2,000-square foot retail space looks just like a real home.

Welcome to House of Madison, a new retail experience unlike any other. Step inside, have a drink and engage in a conversation with the hosts about what they love about their "home". Everything is set out to look like a real apartment, so you feel completely at ease. There is a library, fully functional wet and dry kitchens, a dining area and a walk-in closet. Within the space, you find designer accessories and furniture pieces from brands bulthaup and Rimadesio. The former is a series of kitchen systems and concepts, while the latter features a modern line of sleek doorways, room dividers, cabinetry and walk-in closets, all of which are made primarily from glass and aluminium.

The retail showroom is by Hong Kong-based The Madison Group, a global company representing a range of premium lifestyle brands. Their Singapore showroom first opened back in 2005, then retailing only German label bulthaup. They've decided to relaunch the space in October this year to coincide with the introduction of Rimadesio, the first Italian brand in the group's portfolio.



Rimadesio's customisable walk-in closets can be set up in linear, corner or C-shaped solutions depending on your space.

Like the House of Madison's flagship store in Hong Kong, the new Singapore showroom encompasses a "retail playground" concept. So it's not just the setting that they're selling, it's also about the entire experience. On the concept choice, Michelle Park, General Manager of The Madison Group's Singapore division, says, "As the home is such a personal space and our brands have such a high level of customisation, we knew we had to break through the confines of a traditional showroom and elevate it to a more engaging and inspiring space."

INSIDE STORY

- The store layout is actually inspired by the layout of a real home in Singapore.
- Accessories are hidden throughout the store. Go on a treasure hunt to find designer homewares and miniature replicas of landmarks like the Singapore Flyer and Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

House of Madison

36 Armenian Street #01-02/03
tel: 6733 1171
www.themadisongroup.asia/house-of-madison



The bulthaup b2 cabinet displays all your kitchen wares.

a match made IN HEAVEN

Luxurious sofas that meet your needs and space exactly? That's what you can find at furniture store King Living

TEXT Ho Pei Ying **PHOTOS COURTESY OF** King Living



The seats of Jasper, the store's best-seller, is covered in a memory foam layer for extra comfort and pocket springs to maintain its shape.

King Living looks like any other furniture showroom. There are the requisite loft windows, warm ambient lighting and pockets of spaces set up to look like a home setting. Save for a striking spiral staircase near the entrance, the store doesn't stand out very much. But it doesn't need to. Because what impresses, are its sofas.

The Australian furniture brand refers to their sofas as "Lego bricks", and we can see why. Most of their pieces are modular and can be configured in many ways. For King Living, a sofa isn't just a sofa. It's also a daybed, a guest bed, a storage space, a seat to facilitate conversations, or a media lounge chair. (Their Delta Metro sofa can be configured in 36 different ways.) Have a spacious living room? Arrange the sofa in an L shape to fill up your space. Staying in a compact BTO? Purchase a smaller module. Place an armrest here, or don't. Change your seat covers as many times you want. Do it up in leather or fabric. Move the backrests so that you get a deeper seat. Plug in the brand's own accessories – it ranges from LED lamps to shelves to tables that charge your phone – and you never have to leave the couch. When you see a set you like, ask the staff for a demonstration of the many ways it can be changed and you won't see the sofa in the same way again.





The King Cloud recliner is integrated with a TouchGlide technology that adjusts and memorises the position of your sofa seat and headrest just by a simple swipe.



A gorgeous spiral staircase leads customers up to the second floor.



INSIDE STORY

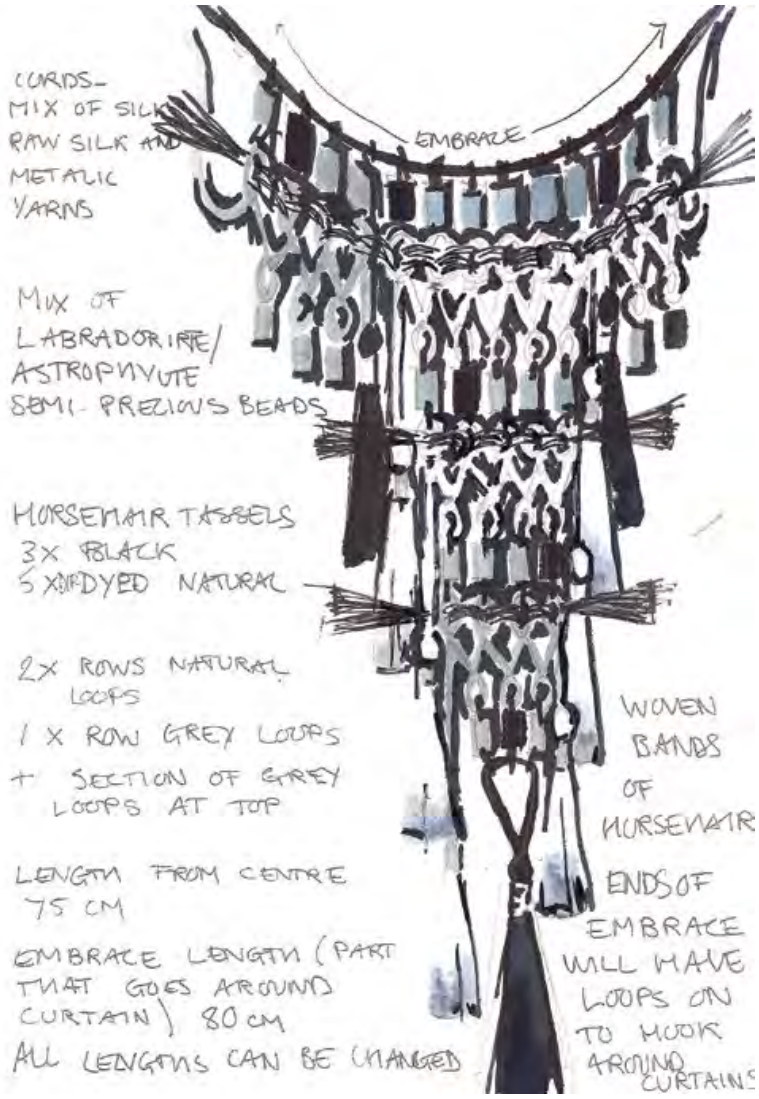
- King Living was launched in 1977. Steel frames were only added to their sofas two years later. With that, their pieces became modular and more flexible.
- Besides carrying their own brand of furniture, King Living also distributes glass pieces and console sets from Italian brand Forma.

King Living Singapore
22 Kallang Avenue #01-00
Hong Aik Building
tel: 6805 4198
www.kingliving.com.sg

JESSICA LIGHT, *passementier*

As one of the last working passementiers left in England, Jessica uses techniques that date back to the 16th century to create trims and tassels for interiors and fashion

TEXT Ho Pei Ying **PHOTOS COURTESY OF** Jessica Light





YOU'VE RECENTLY LAUNCHED A NEW COLLECTION, CEYLON. TELL US ABOUT THAT. Ceylon is a sophisticated selection of complex handmade and handwoven passementerie, which brings together horsehair, rayon and cotton with a dash of bronze or silver. I took inspiration from the Grand Tour, where periwigged adventurers travelled the world amassing collections of curios and indigenous decorative arts. My visual references include Indian-printed cotton, bedecked elephants, Aboriginal and South Seas artefacts, and a sprinkle of Sophie Taeuber-Arp's Dada puppets. They are realised in two exciting colour palettes: Sugar, which is fresh and sweet, and Spice, which is deep and rich.

WHAT MATERIALS DO YOU USE? I'm known for utilising unusual materials not normally associated with passementerie such as horsehair, leather, wool, metal and wood, but I also use traditional yarns like cotton and linen. I like to mix materials together, so I might use silk with straw or cotton with polyurethane.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION FROM? Exhibitions, museums, films, books, and music are things that inspire me. I think that inspiration comes from an emotional or physical connection to something. It can be an entire movie or a tiny detail from an artwork that triggers an idea. I also like to mix up references in my work as I don't like to be too literal. It is then that you produce something more unique.



ALL-TIME FAVOURITE Her Antibes trimmings collection is one of her favourite designs.



DRAWING BOARD The passementier reveals some of her sketch ideas.

WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU MADE? It was an installation I created for Dulux for their Colour Futures 16 exhibition at Tent London as part of the London Design Festival. My brief was to interpret one of their 2016 trend stories. My trend was "Dark and Light", so I made a giant layered dip-dyed tassel with a top made from 500 hand-cut, hand-painted wooden strips with all the colours gradating from dark to light.

GIVE US A DECORATING TIP! Don't be scared of using bold colours and patterns at home. A large, colourful trim going down a plain wall would look really dramatic. Or you can paint or wallpaper your walls only halfway, and leave the rest bare.

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS. Independent, original, eccentric.

IF YOU WEREN'T A DESIGNER, YOU WOULD BE... An archaeologist. I am very interested in history!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU? I'm working on a new diffusion range "Guernsey", a collection of trims and tassels in marl colours for our e-shop.



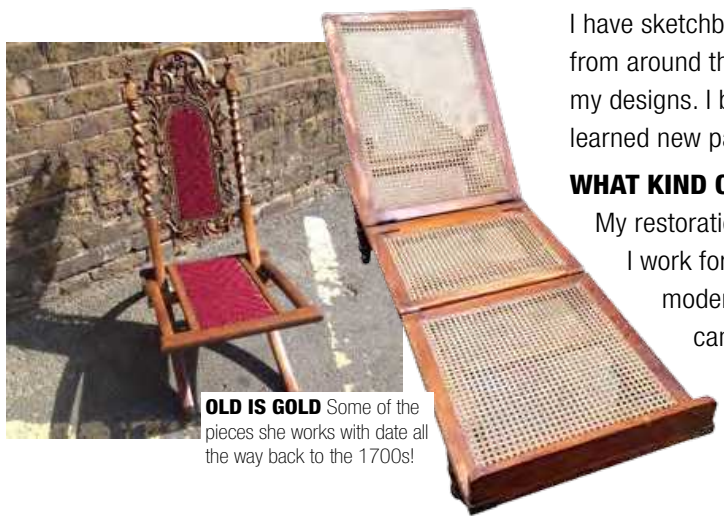
RACHAEL SOUTH, *chair caner and upholsterer*

Her craft was taught to her by her father. After studying textile design and a career as a tassel and trimming designer, Rachael has now taken over her father's upholstery business

TEXT Ho Pei Ying **PHOTOS COURTESY OF** Rachael South

WHAT WAS IT LIKE GROWING UP IN THE SUBURBS OF WEST LONDON? It was an interesting area, caught between the countryside and the city, which was just a train ride away. I was comfortable in both environments, whether it was in the peace of nature or immersed in the bustling energy of the city.

TAKE US THROUGH YOUR DESIGN PROCESS. I am influenced by materials. If I find a material I think will be strong enough for seating, I immediately set about either finding an existing frame or designing a new one. I tend to experiment quite freely with weave designs before settling for one which suits the material.



OLD IS GOLD Some of the pieces she works with date all the way back to the 1700s!



TOOLS OF THE TRADE She can't live without her tools!

YOU'VE WORKED IN PLACES LIKE INDIA, CENTRAL AMERICA AND EUROPE. WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT FROM YOUR TRAVELS? All countries share the same fundamental techniques for weaving. It's a language which weavers share, no matter where they come from. My experiences working with weavers from other countries have broadened my perspective to include new designs and materials. I have sketchbooks where I collected weave ideas from around the world which help me to refine my designs. I become freer with colours and have learned new pattern-making techniques too.

WHAT KIND OF PIECES DO YOU RESTORE? My restoration commissions vary historically. I work for antique dealers and mid-century modern enthusiasts, so some of the caned furniture goes all the way back to the 1700s right through to the modern period that would include pieces like Marcel Breuer's Cesca chair and Hans Wegner types of Danish cord furniture.

WHAT IS THE MOST INSPIRING PLACE YOU'VE BEEN IN? I used to live in a house built into the bankside of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala, which is truly one of the most heavenly locations. I'm also always awestruck by the west coast highlands and islands of Scotland.

BEST FLEA MARKET FIND A Scandinavian paper cord folding chair; I paid just £5!

LIFE PHILOSOPHY I keep one eye on the future, but always on the past with the other.



WEAVING METHODS Rachael typically employs a six-strand traditional caning method.

direct from JAPAN

With its sprawling seafood and produce market, and eight dining concepts, Emporium Shokuhin is a stimulating playground for both foodies and Japanophiles

TEXT Jolene Limuco **PHOTOS** Emporium Shokuhin







OCCUPYING A NEW WING OF Marina Square that formerly housed the building's iconic front steps, Emporium Shokuhin is a sprawling shopping and dining destination spread over 34,000 square feet that comprises a Japanese gourmet grocer, seafood market, beef dry-ageing facility and eight new-to-market dining concepts.

The highlight of the emporium is its bright and airy live seafood market where gourmands can browse and pick the freshest and plumpest seafood. Showcasing a rotation of seasonal catch, such as Hokkaido hairy crabs, scallops and oysters, the market is a feast for the senses. Complementing the fresh seafood is a gourmet grocer that includes an on-site beef dry-ageing facility – a first of its kind in food retail outlets in Singapore. Established as a way to enhance the flavour and texture of raw meat, the dry-ageing process takes place in a temperature and humidity-controlled room.


Senmi Sushi's Dynamite Maki.

With its wood and black steel-dominated interiors and evenly spaced layout, the look and feel of the gourmet store is straight out of Tokyo. Just like Japanese food halls, Emporium Shokuhin, too, contains a ready-to-eat section offering sashimi trays and sushi sets as well as seven other dining outlets that run the gamut from a casual ramen eatery to a seafood wine-bar.

The latter is Vino+Umi, a stylish seafood bar that offers premium seafood and an extensive selection of wine. Reminiscent of a trendy European brasserie, the space is tastefully decked out in two-tone woodgrain floor tiles, glossy subway tiles, and a marble-top counter that displays an appetising array of the day's catch. Diners can expect the freshest flavours here, as most dishes are prepared a la plancha-style, where ingredients are simply grilled on a hot plate and served.

Another chic dining space is Senmi Sushi, a moodily lit sushi bar that dishes out seafood sourced direct from Japan's wholesale markets. The dining outlet also serves traditional Edomae-style sushi that are characterised by their simple and clean flavours, and an exceptional Dynamite maki of avocado, shrimp and cucumber wrapped in Miyazaki beef.

Senmi Sushi also dishes up a mean bowl of Giant Chirashi Don that can be shared amongst a dining group. With the opening of Emporium Shokuhin, it seems that food lovers and Japanophiles have a new stomping ground.

WIN!
A set of Emporium Shokuhin dining vouchers (worth $50)

We have 6 sets to give away. Log on to SquareRooms' Facebook page to find out more.

Emporium Shokuhin
6 Raffles Boulevard, #01-18
Marina Square
www.emporiumshokuhin.com.sg



LOCK SOLUTIONS



PULL OUT DRAWER TABLES















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DRAWER RUNNERS





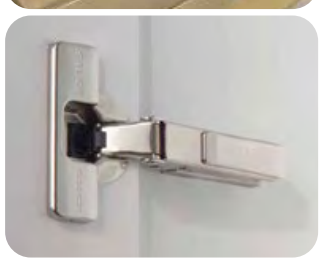




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setting a PRECEDENT

Executive condominium The Criterion sets the benchmark for affordable luxury living with thoughtful designs and a wide range of amenities

TEXT Jolene Limuco **PHOTOS** City Developments Limited

"The Criterion will provide first-of-its-kind wellness features and state-of-the-art technology that cater to homebuyers' evolving lifestyle needs and expectations."

Chia Ngiang Hong, Group General Manager, City Developments Limited





PROPERTY NAME
The Criterion

DEVELOPER
Island Glades Developments Pte Ltd (a joint venture between City Developments Limited and TID Pte Ltd)

LOCATION
Yishun Street 51

ESTIMATED TOP DATE
2018

TENURE
99-year leasehold

NUMBER OF UNITS
505

SIZE (SQUARE FEET)
From 700 – 753

As the property market remains glum, there seems to be one bright spot in the midst of it all. Thanks to the increasingly competitive landscape, property developers are pulling all the stops to entice homebuyers. Couple that with the government's push to build more homes, homebuyers looking to buy their dream homes should be glad for more choices and more competitive pricing.

In fact, ECs are becoming more and more competitive when it comes to offering attractively-priced luxury housing. One such development is The Criterion, a 505-unit property located in Yishun that comprises 10 13-storey blocks covering a plot area of 193,108 square feet.

Situated near the Khatib and Yishun MRT stations, and well connected to the city via the Seletar and Tampines Expressways, the development's location is one of its most attractive features. Yishun is slated to undergo a transformation under the HDB's "Remaking our Heartland" initiative, and plans are underway to develop the neighbourhood into a vibrant hub that will see the introduction of new and enhanced facilities that include a community club, an air-conditioned bus interchange, a town plaza, rooftop community gardens, additional childcare centres, and a new mall.

ENHANCED AMENITIES

The Criterion's prime location is only one of its selling points. The development contains a total of 58 facilities – one of the largest collections in an EC – that include amenities such as the provision of electric bicycles with solar charging stations and a microbubble spa, which is a form of hydrotherapy developed in Japan. In addition, it will be the first EC in Singapore to install an advanced air-conditioning system that uses nanotechnology to purify the air within all units.

THOUGHTFUL DESIGNS

Featuring a mix of apartment types with sizes ranging from 700 square feet for a two-bedroom unit to 1,636 square feet for a penthouse, the project developed by Island Glades Developments Pte Ltd was planned for different kinds of family units in mind. As such, homebuyers have the option to customise room layouts and configurations to fit their requirements. These options are especially useful for multigenerational families who need more living space, or individuals who may prefer to have their own personal sanctuary.

Designed for optimum comfort, a majority of the apartments in the property are North-South facing, which minimises the build-up of heat from the rising and setting suns. In addition, most units are laid out to allow for natural and cross ventilation, maximising the flow of natural light and air to circulate through the interiors. Homes are also decked out in high-end materials and fittings, such as compressed quartz kitchen countertops, Hansgrohe fixtures and Whirlpool appliances.

Such thoughtful designs coupled with abundant facilities and amenities, and a choice location make The Criterion an ideal base for enjoyable urban living.

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INNOVATION • PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

COSY UP

Chic kitchen, dining and living room ideas to make family and friends feel more than welcome

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying

Image courtesy of IKEA

AU NATUREL

We love the combination of natural wood, linen and dark weathered metal. It creates a laidback look, but has enough texture and visual interest to have plenty of character. Throwing in several plants enhances the chill-out vibes while adding liveliness to the space.

BRIGHT AND CHEERY
If you absolutely love patterns and colours, there's an easy way to pull them off. Stick to just four or five tones, avoid busy designs, and pick patterns that seem to mirror each other.



Image courtesy of IKEA

the sweet life

Functional and stylish spaces to gather your nearest and dearest.



QUIRKY TOUCH
Liven up a stark space with a light-hearted decal. Picking a monotone design creates a more punchy effect while keeping the decor classy for adults.

Large Banksy Balloon Floating Sticker, from In-Spaces



SAFARI CHIC
Earthy tones combined with rocker chairs, a strategically placed wood accent and a plush area rug make one feel transported to a foreign land.

Design by Meter Square

MODERN FAIRYTALE
Gorgeous and playful at once, these whimsical chandeliers dancing with butterflies look beautiful by day while casting off pretty shadows at night.



Nymph Chandelier from Koket

delightful dining

From rustic and casual to elegant, these eating nooks make every meal feel extra special.



The Printorium Harry Potter Collection Proclamations, from MinaLima Store

KICK BACK AND RELAX
This cafe-style alcove makes great use of a recessed space with wall-to-wall seating and a ledge that holds posters and other decorative flourishes.



Design by Mong Design

ZEN ZONE
A beautiful spot to start and end your day, this tranquil corner keeps it simple with sharp lines, neutral tones and soft overhead lighting.



Modern Rustic Retro Farmhouse Country Wood Recycled Wood Industrial Dining Suite with Metal Dining Chairs from Ghify

FINE BALANCE
Pair a heavy wood table with ghost or wireframe chairs. The visual contrast prevents the zone from looking over-crowded or blocky while letting you admire the solid centrepiece.

Surprising Surfaces

Cool finishes you can use to spruce up your space.



Image courtesy of IKEA

1 If a room's looking a little plain, adding a panel of wooden strips can jazz it up while hiding electric cables, odd recessed walls and other defects.



Design by Mong Design

2 By now, chalk paint has become an ubiquitous pick, but we much prefer magnetic paint instead. We can fill the wall up with quirky magnets, invites, notes, recipes and more. Plus, no more chalk dust to clean up afterwards!

creative kitchens

Dream up your best dishes in these inspiring kitchens.



Boffi Salinas kitchen by Patricia Urquiola from XTRA

DO IT YOUR WAY

When we think of kitchens, bulky built-ins usually come to mind. An enticing alternative is this gorgeous modular system with light doors and skinny shelving that allows customisation with different colours, integrated lighting and eco-sustainable materials.



Image courtesy of IKEA

STYLISH AND FUNCTIONAL

A great kitchen for those who like to cook, this urban beauty thrills with plenty of counter and storage space, easy-to-clean glossy surfaces and modern stainless steel appliances.

Upsize Ideas

Get more room in your compact house!



Design by Artist Room

1 **Consider a semi-open kitchen** where some areas are exposed while cluttered parts are closed off. The dividers also give more definition to the different zones if you don't want a completely open-concept home.



Design by Meter Square

2 **Extend a tiny kitchen** with a breakfast bar that offers more prep space! You can also section off the original kitchen with glass sliding doors, helping you contain cooking fumes while allowing you to see right through.

3 **Let things "breathe"** by not crowding every shelf with items. Keeping parts of your cabinetry empty will help conjure the image of an abundance of space.

4 **Pull furniture forward** a couple of inches away from walls. You might think it's counterintuitive, but this nifty trick will result in a visually roomier effect!

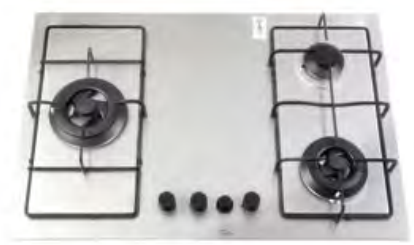
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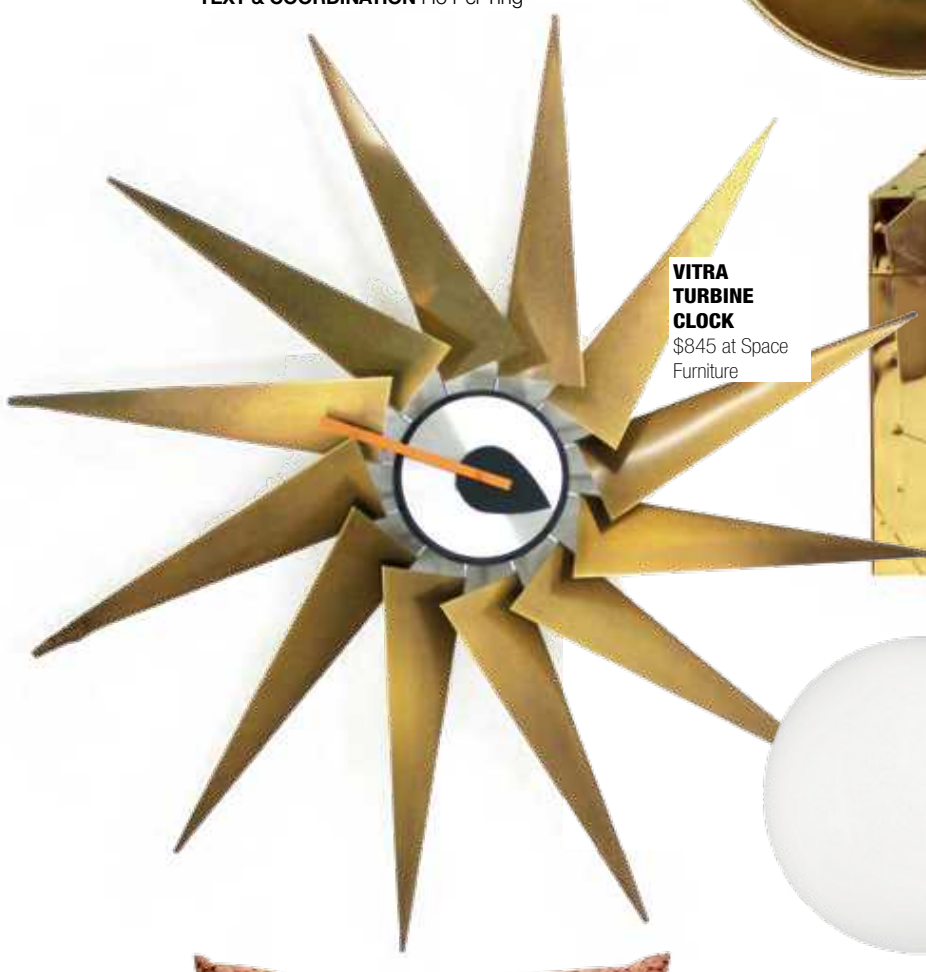
TEXT & COORDINATION Ho Pei Ying



MENU DUANE PENDANT LIGHT
POA at Grafunkt



SOLID BRASS FLYING BIRDS DECOR
$85.70 at The Nautical Company



VITRA TURBINE CLOCK
$845 at Space Furniture



BRASS AND GOLD BOX CHEST POA at Touched Interiors

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REFINE WALL CLOCK
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PORCELAIN FLEXAGON VASE
$24.90 at Make Room

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BONALDO ORION SIDE TABLES
$1,888 each at XZQT



NORTHERN LIGHTING BENDER FLOOR LAMP
$1,231 at Danish Design



FRITZ HANSEN DROP CHAIR
POA at W. Atelier



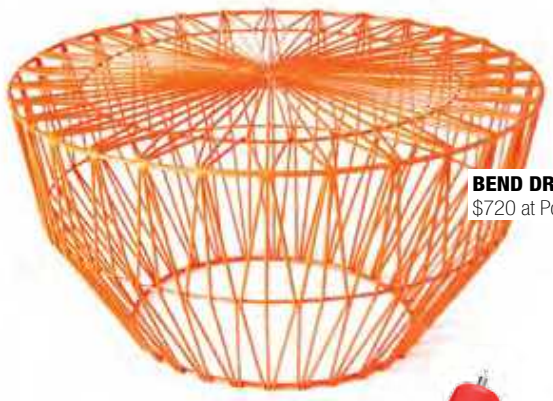
INFINITI CALLITA CHAIR
$1,355 at Lifestorey



POLTRONA FRAU BIRD TABLE
POA at Proof Living

A LESSON IN GEOMETRY

Strong lines and stunning angles say sculpture more than furniture.



BEND DRUM TABLE
$720 at Pomelo



DELIGHTFULL DIANA FLOOR LAMP
POA at The Beuro



ORANGE ROBOT TOO SIDEBOARD
POA at &New



CARPENTER STOOL BY JETHRO MACEY
$480 at Pomelo



EILERSEN PENTHOUSE COFFEE TABLE
from $1,754 at
Danish Design



COVO NO. 3 STOOL
from $357 at
Lifestorey



OVERGAARD & DYRMAN WIRE LOUNGE SOFA
POA at Dream



LIGHTYEARS PALLAS PENDANT LIGHT
POA at W. Atelier

CASAMANIA N7 TABLE
$16,949 at Lifestorey



PORRO LOOP MIRROR
$3,518 at Dream

DARK MATTER

Black is the new black. Time to add drama with stylish dark furnishings.



MOOOI RABBIT LAMP
$720 at Space Furniture



WRONG FOR HAY ELEPHANT TABLE
from $468 at Grafunkt

show your true colours

Personalise your space and have your home reflect who you truly are with Dulux's newest range of Ambiance paints

There's nothing like a fresh coat of paint to make your home feel brand new. But wouldn't it be a lot more distinctive if it can also let you create a haven you can truly call your own? After all, your home is the perfect canvas to express your individuality. And letting you do just that is Dulux's newest range of Ambiance paints.

Get personal

The great thing about the Dulux Ambiance range is that it not only offers you an array of stunning colours to personalise your walls from Dulux Ambiance All, you also get to pair the hues with a specially curated selection of Dulux Ambiance Special Effects paints. Comprising four effects Velvet, Linen, Metallic and Marble, these Special Effects paints don't just make a visual statement, they also add a unique touch and feel to your walls you don't get with ordinary paints.

Endless possibilities

By pairing Dulux Ambiance All with Dulux Ambiance Special Effects, you're essentially getting limitless decorating possibilities. Take a leaf out of Nadya Hutagalung's collection. She was appointed the brand ambassador for Dulux Ambiance, where she created her very own Dulux Ambiance Collection. The eco-warrior loves natural materials and warm textures, which is why her palette speaks of oak, warm stone, optimism and positive energy.



Nothing creates drama and panache like an intense colour palette. Soften things up with a lush, velvety trimming.

Nadya's Lights Out
Ambiance All: 50BG 08/021

Nadya's Velvet Silver Quarts
Ambiance Velvet Silver: 50GY 45/037
Ambiance All: 10GG 62/026

Nadya's Monarch Gold
Ambiance All: 20YY 36/370

Like Nadya, you can balance a dramatic and intense colour palette in your dining room with a lush, velvet trimming. Linen and Metallic Special Effects paints are a great way to create nature-inspired textures for a calming atmosphere in the living room. And thanks to the Marble Special Effects paint paired with a bold Monarch Gold accent, a stairway becomes a stunning architectural statement.

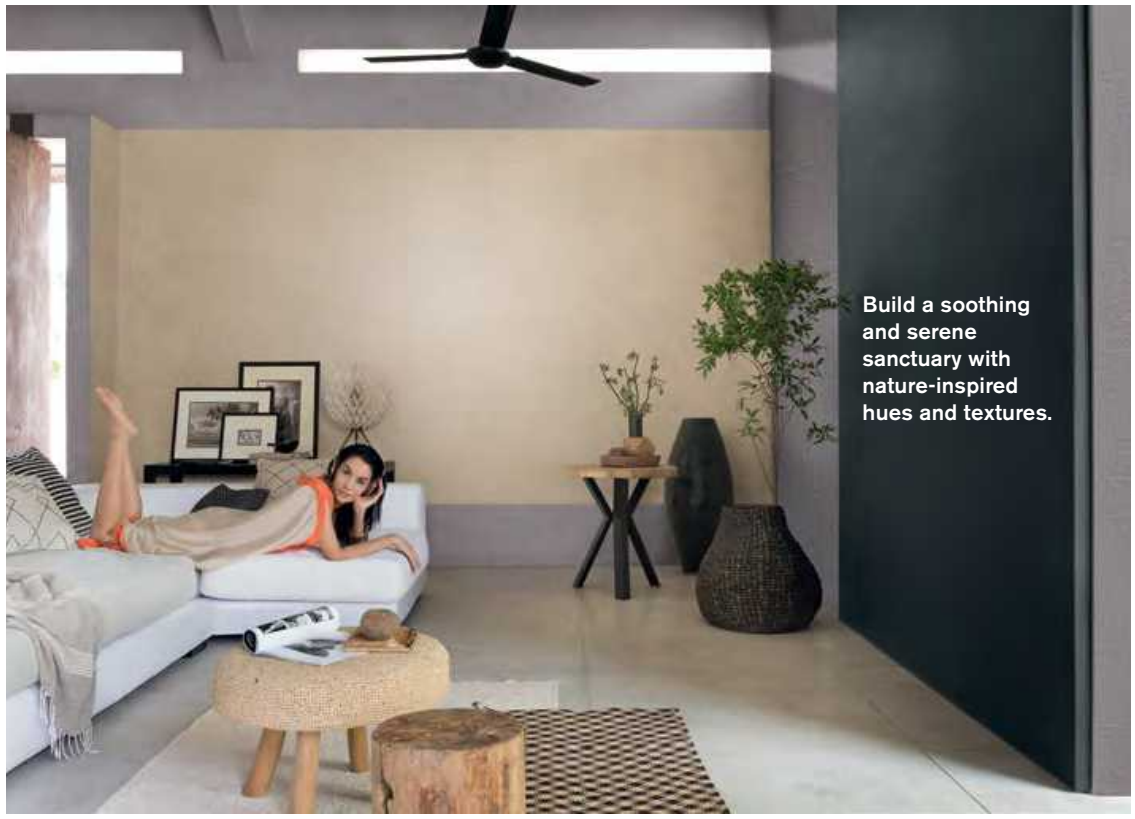


A marble-effect wall speaks of elegance and refined taste. Pair that with a bold accent and you have a winner.

Nadya's Water Chestnut
Ambiance All: 30YY 62/127

Nadya's Monarch Gold
Ambiance All: 20YY 36/370

Nadya's Marble Pebble
Ambiance Marble: 50RR 32/029



Build a soothing and serene sanctuary with nature-inspired hues and textures.

Nadya's Linen Felt Grey
Ambiance Linen: 50RR 32/029
Ambiance All: 50RR 32/029

Nadya's Metallic Silver Taupe
Ambiance Metallic Silver: 00YY 26/220
Ambiance All: 30YY 62/127

Certified painter

Dulux has specially launched the Dulux Ambiance Certified Painters programme to equip a group of craftsmen with the skills to paint your walls with the Dulux Ambiance Special Effects paints. Experienced and committed, the network of certified painters is capable of delivering a fuss-free and consistent paintjob to make the journey from inspiration to design to reality that much easier. From on-site evaluation to final touch-up, you are guaranteed quality service at every stage.

Personalise your wall now and save more than $800! For more information, visit www.dulux.com.sg/ambiance





A total solution for interior walls

Dulux Ambiance All

- 'Virtually no paint smell**' when freshly painted
- Superior toughness
- Anti-bacterial/ Anti-mould
- Mould and fungus resistance
- Colourguard technology, keeps colours looking fresh longer
- Washable and easy cleaning

**Dulux Ambiance All - claims based on research conducted by Nielsen in June 2015 against 'odourless' interior wall paint products in Singapore amongst 110 Singaporean adults, aged 20-55 years old (Quotas were set by age, gender, ethnic group representative of Singapore population). Four in five agreed that there is virtually no paint smell when it is freshly painted.

Colours and effects shown in the interior image may vary from actual paint colour due to difference in lighting in photographs and printing.

Brought to you by:

Dulux let's colour

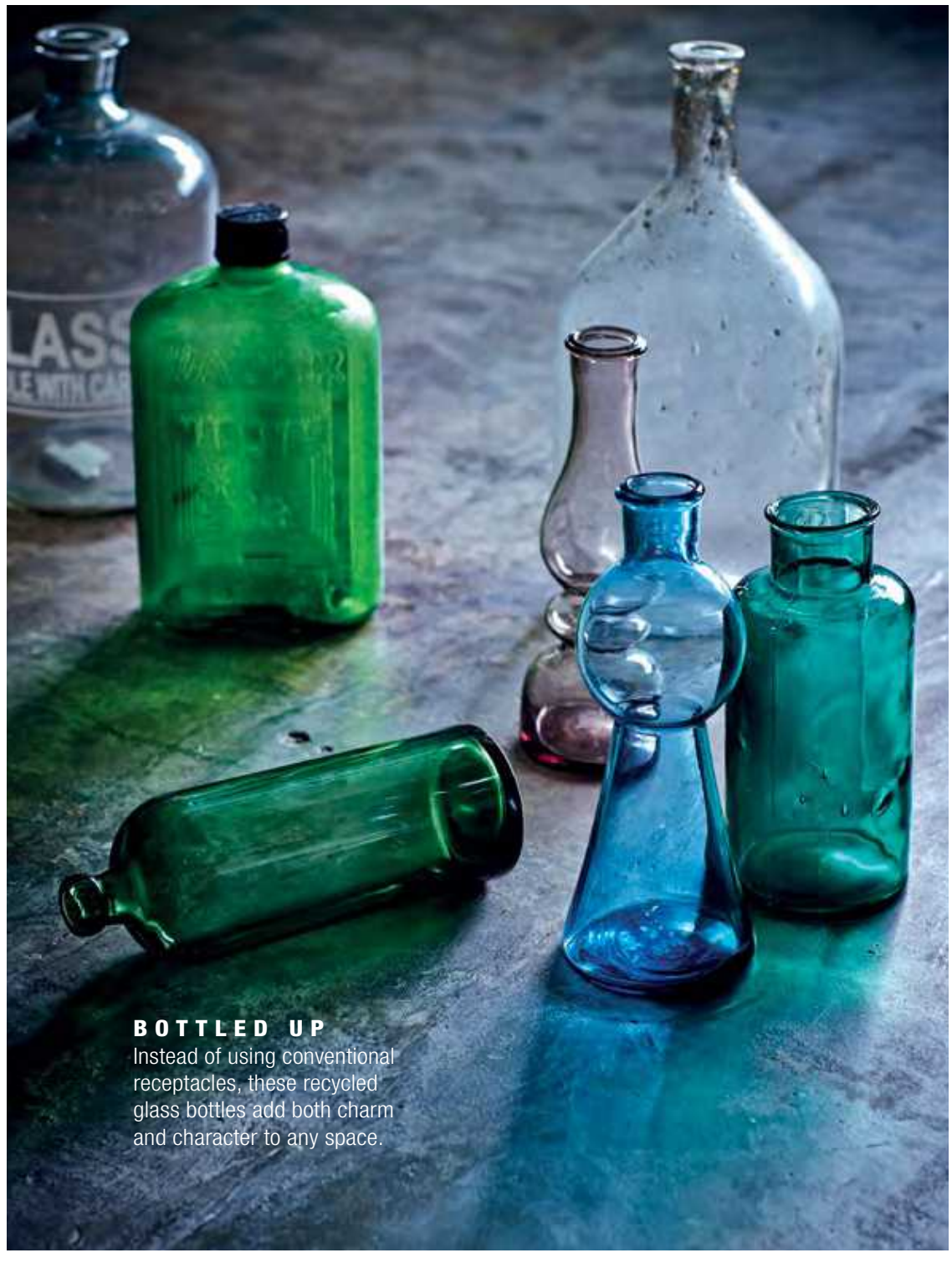
SHABBY CHIC

Create an uber cosy home with these rustically charming furnishings and accessories

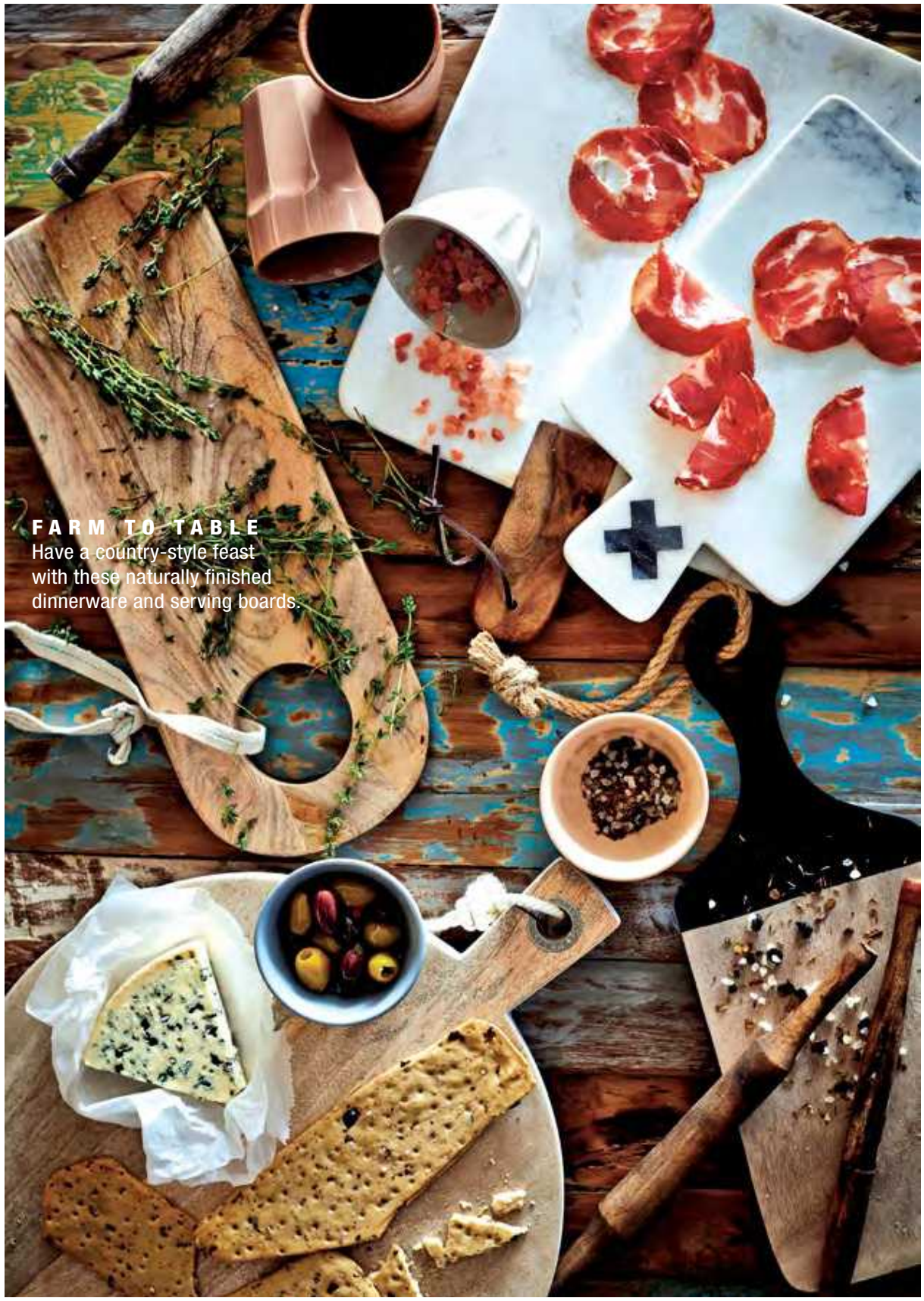
STYLING Michelle Lim **ART DIRECTION** Neo Aik Sing
PHOTOGRAPHY Justin Loh **SHOT ON LOCATION** Journey East

GREAT GRAINS
Nothing warms up the interiors better than gorgeous woodgrain accents. Pair them with industrial-strength metal accents for a masculine and urban aesthetic perfect for modern homes.

From left: d-Bodhi stackable boxes, from 135 each, District Eight Design stool, POA, d-Bodhi recycled boat wood dresser, $2,230, all from Journey East; framed textured glass, $1,499, and green glass bottle, $179, from The GoDown.



Clockwise from top left: House Doctor jar, $165, from Journey East; dark green bottle, $69, from The GoDown; HK Living blue and pink glass vases, $39 each, from Make Room; green bottles, from $69 each, from The GoDown.



Clockwise from top left: HK Living mangowood board, $89 for a set of three, Madam Stoltz mugs, $8.90 each, Madam Stoltz bowls, from $4.90 each, Madam Stoltz marble board with wooden handle, $119, HK Living marble board with cross handle, $99, Madam Stoltz wooden board with black handle, $20.90, and HK Living round chopping board, $59, all from Make Room.

On d-Bodhi Southwark coffee table, $1,534, from Journey East.



Clockwise from left: Madam Stoltz rope chair, $399, from Make Room; House Doctor triangle cushion, $85, District Eight Design lamp, $380, and d-Bodhi ladder, $240, all from Journey East; Madam Stoltz striped linen cushion, $99, and HK Living basket, $119, HK Living woven rug, $199, all from Make Room; House Doctor storage boxes, $188 for a set of two, House Doctor pinecone pillow, $55, House Doctor CTY pillow, $72, House Doctor Funkis pillow, $85, all from Journey East; striped linen cushion, $99, from Make Room.



GOLD CLASS

Add a touch of luxe to your table setting by scattering gold-painted twigs and leaves around. Gather prettily shaped leaves and interesting-looking twigs from your garden and coat with metallic gold paint. It's as simple as that!

Featuring bowl, $33.95, vase, $22.95 and planter, $29.95 from HomesToLife.

JOYFUL CRAFTING

Decorate your home with these simple yet beautiful DIY ornaments to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year

CRAFTWORK & ART DIRECTION Neo Aik Sing & Linda Setiono
PHOTOGRAPHY Vicky Andhika
SHOT ON LOCATION HomesToLife Pop-Up Shop at I12 Katong



WHITE CHRISTMAS

Dream up a white-themed Christmas setting with these elegant table trees made from yarn. To make, attach double-sided tape all around a cardboard cone. Then carefully wrap eyelash yarn around the cone starting from the top and making your way down. To finish, stick a silver star on top.

Featuring bedside table, $399, and wooden coaster, $39.94 at HomesToLife.



CELEBRATORY FEASTING

Add festive cheer to your table with this simple idea. Fold a square napkin into a quarter. Turn the napkin so that the loose corners are facing you at an angle. Fold each corner into 1-cm tiers. Flip the napkin around and fold the right and left sides to form a triangle. Turn the napkin back over again, then turn the first fold up and tuck each new fold under the previous fold until you get a cute Christmas tree shape.

Featuring plates, $34.95 each at HomesToLife.



THREE TIMES THE CHARM

Personalise your Christmas tree decorations with these simple but eye-catching ornaments. Pick out a portion of pottery clay and shape into flat ovals. Using store-bought stamps, make an imprint on top of each piece, then use a toothpick to make a hole for a twine to go through. Bake it in the oven to harden.

Featuring Acacia wood serving board, $23.95, and striped scarf, $52.95 at HomesToLife.



BALL OF A TIME

Go for a nature-themed Christmas decor with these elegant twine baubles. You'll need some balloons, twine, Mod Podge, plastic wrap and scissors. Blow up the balloons slightly and wrap with plastic wrap. Coat your fingers with Mod Podge and run the twine through your fingers to coat. Wrap the twine over the balloon in a crisscross manner and leave to dry overnight. Once dried, carefully deflate the balloon with a pair of scissors and remove.

Featuring blue throw, $109, reindeer fur, $659, and mini vase, POA at HomesToLife.



MINIATURE MARVELS

Delight your guests with these cute miniature Christmas trees. Spray mini paint pots in silver paint. Separately, spray decorative pine cones in green paint. Once dry, pop a pine cone into the pot and glue a silver star on top.

Featuring mustard cushion cover, $55.95, goatskin cushion cover, $189, and marble tray, $219 at HomesToLife.





GLITTER AND GLAM

Make your interior sparkle with these lovely receptacles. Find used wine and soda bottles and coat them in white paint. Once dry, coat the bottom half with Mod Podge, then sprinkle liberally with coloured glitter. Leave to dry before use. Pair them with matching candles to add a beautiful glow to your home!

Featuring photo frame, $71.95, leaf plates, $24.95 each, and sideboard, $709 at HomesToLife.

HIGH SOCIETY

End the year on a high with these elegant entertaining ideas

TEXT Ho Pei Ying

1

A TOUCH OF GREEN

Instead of flower centrepieces, use potted plants in your table setting for a look that is fresh and eco-friendly. They can also double as place cards to add a personal touch to your party. If you don't wish to keep them around the house, give them away to your guests as parting gifts.

Image courtesy of Rowen & Wren

2

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

Pre-dinner nibbles are just as important as the main course. They help to make or break a first impression and also keep your guests' hunger at bay. These tilted snack bowls from CB2 offer easy access to your bite-sized nosh, dips and the like, and they come in a stunning stainless steel finish that is both elegant and practical.

Stainless Steel Snack Bowls, $21.95 to $38.95, from CB2



4

ALL THAT GLITTERS

Cast your dining room as the star of the show with sparkling dinnerware. We love these gold and silver ones from Crate & Barrel that come with an ornate weave pattern. Pair them with table linens of a similar palette and you're guaranteed to impress even the fussiest of guests.

Shimmer Silver Glass Appetiser Plate, $8.95, from Crate & Barrel



3

COSY UP

Candles can set the mood for a cosy and intimate gathering. Group tealights along the window sill or place them along with your dinner setting. These classy perforated holders should glam things up!

Doftrik tealight holders, $4.90 per set, from IKEA



5

PLEASE DON'T STOP THE MUSIC

What's a party without music? Blast your favourite tracks with this compact wireless speaker from Sony. And your party decor doesn't have to suffer, thanks to its incredibly stylish design. With a 60-Hz bass response and dual passive radiators to deliver an output power of 20W, the SRS-X33 is certain to get your invitees out of their seats and onto the dance floor.

SRS-X33 Wireless Speaker, $199, from Sony Stores, Sony Centres and selected authorised dealers



6

ON THE MOVE

Rolling minibars are great for working the crowd and keeping your guests hydrated. Its mobility is particularly useful if your party covers several rooms in the house. Don't stash it away in the storeroom after the party though; this versatile piece can serve as a magazine rack, side table or display shelf!

Image courtesy of Nordal



7



GAME ON

Including games in a dinner party is an immensely useful way to get your guests to break the ice. And it doesn't require a lot of effort. Prepare board games or old-school ones like tic-tac-toe to keep them occupied just before dinner. For a posh setting, select a tic-tac-toe set made entirely from marble.

Marble Tic-Tac-Toe Game Set, $59.95, from Crate & Barrel



9

GO BIG OR GO HOME

We don't often associate buffets with elegance, but doing things buffet style means you will have more time to mingle since you won't need to serve. And it's great for bigger groups! Take the extra effort to make your fare look fancy, but keep your wares neutral and functional so they won't steal attention from your food.

365+ serving ware, from $1.90 for a plate, from IKEA



8

BRANCHING OUT

Don't have a tree for your Christmas party? You can always use your house plant as a substitute. Just dress it up with a stylish planter before embellishing with ornaments.

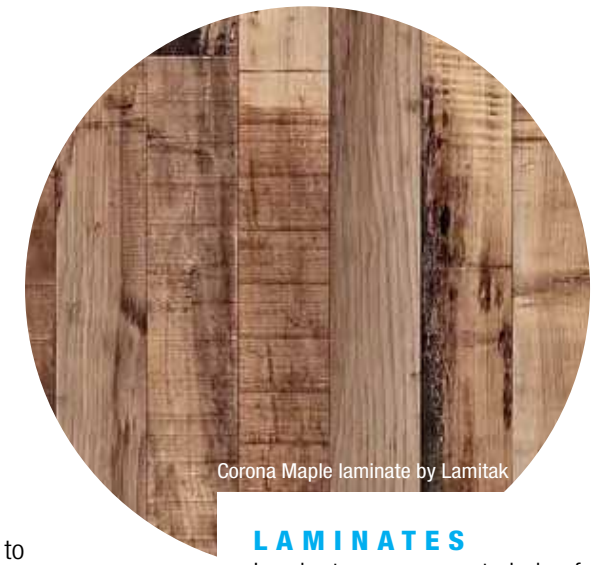
Image courtesy of Madam Stoltz

MULTIPLE CHOICE

When it comes to selecting what material to use for your kitchen countertop, it pays to choose wisely

TEXT Ho Pei Ying

There are plenty of choices out there when it comes to kitchen countertop material. But never select a material based on its looks alone (tempting as that may be!), unless your cooking zone isn't really space for cooking and is purely ornamental. If your kitchen happens to be one of the most hardworking spaces at home, it's important to choose a worktop material that is durable and easy to maintain. Always do your research about the pros and cons of each, and determine for yourself which would best fit your needs and budget. To help you get started, here's a closer look at several popular options.



Corona Maple laminate by Lamitak

tip!

Avoid using cleaning agents containing acid, alkali or sodium hypochlorite, as they may corrode, discolour or ruin your laminate surface.

LAMINATES

Laminates are a great choice for the budget conscious. If you love the luxurious look of marble, granite or wood but don't wish to splurge, go for laminates which come in a wide array of choices including designs that mimic these natural materials. Laminates are also water- and scratch-resistant and very easy to maintain. Most stains can be cleaned with warm water and a non-abrasive cloth, while more stubborn stains can be removed with some thinner.

ENGINEERED QUARTZ

Engineered quartz is composed of natural quartz mixed with resin. Because of their hard-wearing properties, they are popular as materials for kitchen countertops. Brands like Caesarstone and Silestone are non-porous, heat- and scratch-resistant, and don't require a sealant. They come in a wide variety of designs and textures, including ones that look just like natural stones, making them a great alternative to granite or marble. Silestone also has a line of sinks called Integrity that comprises the same properties as its surfaces to give you a more seamless appearance in your kitchen.



Grey quartz surface by Caesarstone



DEKTON

This is a relatively brand new material in the market, and is marketed by surface manufacturer Cosentino as an ultracompact surface. Dekton is composed of a blend of natural minerals that are subjected to high temperatures and compression during the production process. It's an excellent choice for your worktop as it is highly resistant to stains, abrasion, heat and also UV, making it suitable even for outdoor use. Dekton also comes in ultra-large formats of 1440mmx3200mm so you can achieve durability without needing to sacrifice style.

Dekton by Cosentino

TILES

You see them more as backsplashes, but they can also function as a worktop material – that is, if constantly cleaning grout stains isn't a big deal for you. They also present an uneven surface, so they might not work too well as a main prep station. But the great thing about tiles in the kitchen is that they are durable and exceptionally heat- and moisture-resistant. A chipped or cracked tile can also be easily replaced. Choose larger format ones for fewer grout lines.



Image courtesy of Laace

NATURAL STONE

A countertop made from natural stone like granite or marble screams fancy. The main snag of course, is the price. But if you can come to terms with how expensive it is, a countertop in natural stone looks exceptionally elegant and sophisticated. Because they are natural, each slab can appear vastly different. But that's not a bad thing, since it means you're getting a design that's uniquely yours! Not all stones are created equal however. While granite is a good choice for a kitchen countertop because it's a very hardy material, marble is porous and is easily stained and scratched.



Image courtesy of Rencraft

CONCRETE

An industrial style kitchen is never complete without a concrete kitchen countertop. If you're handy enough, you can actually do it up yourself using products like Quikrete, but always do your research and engage a professional if you don't feel too confident. Concrete surfaces can crack under extreme temperature changes and is somewhat porous. So they tend to require regular sealing and waxing to keep it looking its best, which means it's actually a pretty high-maintenance material. But the upside is a spiffy looking countertop that is the envy of all your guests!



Image courtesy of Concreate



Samsung's Staron solid surface, available at Evershine

tip!

To prolong the lifespan of solid surface, always use rubber stands or cork pads. Prolonged heat exposure with temperatures over 80 degree Celsius may affect the surface.

SOLID SURFACE

Solid surface is a non-porous, homogeneous material that is primarily made of acrylic or polyester resins. Their main selling point? A fluid, seamless kitchen. Some brands like Samsung's Staron are flexible enough so you can mould them into any shape. It's also relatively easy to maintain, although prone to scratches. Some of the darker hues and patterns can emulate the look of natural granite, but do note that darker solid surfaces also make scratches and marks more noticeable.



Image courtesy of Rencraft

WOOD Nothing beats the warmth and feel of real wood. A butcher block surface works well in a modern kitchen, while reclaimed wood is great for more rustic settings. And they are a fantastic choice for a prep station. However, wood is a porous material that can be easily damaged by spills, and it's also highly susceptible to scratches, dents and burns. So they might not be the best choice for an entire worktop. Nevertheless, regular maintenance and oiling can ensure that your wood countertop would last for a while. Besides, the weathered look has its appeal too.



Image courtesy of Euromobil

STAINLESS STEEL

You see them in commercial industrial kitchens, but stainless steel countertops are becoming popular in homes too. Stainless steel is great for a modern, minimalist kitchen if you don't mind cleaning up fingerprints regularly. To prevent your kitchen from looking overly clinical, you can mix in warm woods. They don't corrode, are impervious to bacteria and are water- and heat-resistant. But they are also susceptible to scratches and dents, so if you're looking for a surface that can double as a cutting board, this is probably not for you.



A bird's-eye view of the vast industrial park that is Cosentino.

BEYOND THE SURFACE

There's more to surface manufacturer Cosentino than meets the eye as we find out through a visit to their headquarters in Almeria, Spain

TEXT Ho Pei Ying

In October, we were invited by Cosentino to visit their industrial park in Almeria, a part of Spain so obscure no one really knows where it is exactly.

We explored the vast factories of Silestone and Dekton, the two surface materials produced under Cosentino. While the former was one of their first products and a response to the porosity of flooring materials in the market then, the latter is their newest surface innovation that comprises a range of characteristics that makes it possible even for outdoor use. We visited the Micael marble quarry, where 3,000 litres of marble are dug up per day for Scalea, Cosentino's contribution to the natural stone surface industry. We also had a rare opportunity to meet Francisco Martinez-Cosentino Justo, President and CEO of Cosentino Group. Already more than 40 years in the industry, and the 64-year-old is still as passionate about surface materials as when he first started out in 1979.



Inside the Dekton factory, where slabs are created by heating a mixture of raw materials in a 180-m-long oven at 600 degree Celsius.

There's something about seeing things for yourself that offers you another perspective. Our visit to Cosentino in Almeria has certainly given us a new understanding of the surface manufacturer.

COSENTINO IN NUMBERS

1mil sqm
SIZE OF COSENTINO'S INDUSTRIAL PARK

An average of 20,000 DEKTON SLABS and 75,000 SILESTONE SLABS are produced per month

95%
of water is RECYCLED in Cosentino's production processes



A vast amount of greenery surrounds and occupies the site, providing respite amid all the industrial action.


Finished slabs of Silestone, which are constructed from a mixture of natural quartz and resin. At the end of the production line, finished slabs are inspected by a group of experts for quality control.


With every 100 tonnes of marble dug up in the Micael marble quarry, only 15 per cent is good enough to be made into slabs. According to Cosentino, the whiter the marble, the higher the price they can fetch.

"Innovation and internationalisation are the keys to success. But what's most important is having the best team as possible."

Francisco Martinez-Cosentino Justo

Francisco Martinez-Cosentino Justo

President and CEO of Cosentino Group

He founded the company, alongside his brother Eduardo Martínez-Cosentino, in 1979. Silestone, their first non-porous surface material, was produced in 1990. Since then, Cosentino has grown into an international company producing a range of surface brands. But the man behind all this doesn't let this success get to his head. We sit down for a rare chat with this busy Spaniard.

How has the idea of the kitchen changed since you started out in the 1970s?
The kitchen has now become the centre of the home. In the past, kitchens were an area of the house which was more private. Silestone didn't exist back then. With Silestone, we have brought design and colours into the kitchen.

What are some variations in kitchen surface trends you see across the regions?
In South America, there is a trend towards bright colours. In northern Europe, there is a preference towards greys and blacks. Europe is inclined towards solid colours in general. In Asia, there is a great variation; some parts favour bright hues, while others like more modern colours as in northern Europe. Even with the different tastes across the regions, white is always very much in demand.

Cosentino's development is tied very closely with the province of Almeria in Spain. Tell us more about that.
We are the biggest industrial enterprise in Almeria and therefore the biggest employer in the province. We are very proud of keeping all our Silestone and Dekton production here. My wish is to give back to this community part of our success, which is also Almeria's success.

What are some challenges you're facing as a company right now?
We are always trying to find something new, something different. We're trying to get out the polished surfaces from Dekton. We're also pushing forward new colours for it. There is a demand now for slabs that are 3cm in thickness, which the market has yet to provide, so we're looking to get into that too.



You are always so busy! How do you spend your leisure time when you have them?
I spend a lot of time at work and I travel very often. In my free time, I enjoy being with my family; particularly now with my grandchildren! I also enjoy reading history and management books.

big on STYLE

Despite its modest size, this two-bedroom condominium unit is full of personality thanks to its unconventional storage solutions and quirky accents

TEXT Jolene Limuco **PHOTOS** Justin Loh
STYLING Carmen Tang
ART DIRECTION Neo Aik Sing



FEATURE WALL AND STORAGE CABINET
(left)
The moveable panels installed along the length of one wall of the apartment allow the homeowners to transform the mood of the home. Huanmin says that when they have friends over, they would cover up the TV and digital accessories to create a more intimate space for hanging out.

KITCHEN, DINING AND LIVING
(opposite page)
Even though the home is small, ample storage spaces keep things neat and tidy. The raised platform in the living room not only demarcates the chill-out zone, it also offers plenty of hidden storage for the homeowners to stow away provisions, sports equipment and other essentials.

2 ROOM CONDO UNIT

732 sqf

4 WEEKS RENO PERIOD

HOME TO

BUDGET $30K (EXCLUDING FURNISHINGS)

UPPER SERANGOON

In land-abundant countries like the United States and Australia, we are seeing more people embracing small homes. In Singapore, however, homeowners typically go for modest housing simply because we do not have much space. The high standard of living also means that homes with more rooms translate to homes that are more expensive. That does not mean that apartments in Singapore are dismal. On the contrary, Singaporean homeowners are immensely creative with their small spaces.

Young homeowners Huang Huanmin and Lee Jiayin are one such couple who are not deterred by the limited square footage of their condominium unit. Wishing to create a home that is bright and cheerful, they engaged the help of Carmen Tang, the design director of interior design firm Wolf Woof, to help them create their ideal space. Huanmin shares that he and his wife decided to work


GREAT LEADER
CHAIRMAN MEOW
HANS-GEORG RAUCH
EDITIONS LAHUMIERE
88 BD DE COURCELLES - 75017 PARIS



OVERALL
With its predominantly light colour palette contrasted with cool grey tones and natural woodgrain elements, the design of the home takes advantage of the unit's high ceilings and abundance of natural daylight streaming in. The overall look eschews typical home decor themes and instead reflects the personality and tastes of the young homeowners.

with Carmen because they have seen her projects online and they thought that her style matches theirs.

He explains, "From her previous projects, we noticed that Carmen works very well with small spaces. Her interiors are bright and happy with a lot of graphic elements and pops of colour. These were exactly what we wanted."

Exuding a cool vibe that is reminiscent of hip boutique hotels, the two-bedroom unit boasts unexpected details and a laidback vibe. One of the unique features of the couple's first property is a moveable feature wall fixed with six interchangeable panels that allow them to transform the mood and feel of their living and dining zones as they please.

Designed as a gallery wall cum storage space cum recessed seating, the feature wall is an all-encompassing solution that meets the homeowners' brief of having ample storage while keeping the interior clutter-free. At the same time, two panels are lined with artificial plants to create a vertical garden.

Carmen explains that the panelled wall stemmed from the fact that Huanmin and Jiayin collect a lot of posters and mementos from their travels that they wanted to display. "The best way to provide the necessary space is to use the wall space," the interior designer says.

Taking up an entire wall that stretches from the entrance to the balcony, the wall of cabinets provide much needed storage space



Hairpin stool from Second Charm

BEDROOM
(right)
The wall between the living room and bedroom was taken down to visually open up the interiors. Tempered glass panels were installed in its place, which are paired with roller blinds for when the couple needs privacy.

HIDDEN STORAGE
(bottom, right)
Despite the home's modest size and the homeowners' penchant for collecting art and other bric-a-brac, this condominium unit remains neat and tidy thanks to the plenitude of storage spaces tucked into all corners the apartment. Once such storage solution is a raised platform anchored in the living room that is fitted with pullout drawers and doors for stashing away household essentials.



and display niches for the couple to store things and show off their art and artefact collection. Part of the built-in cabinet also houses the entertainment system, which can be hidden away when needed. The bottom-most section is fitted over with slatted panels to hide electrical outlets and entertainment accoutrements. It is a storage cabinet that perfectly aligns with the homeowners' requirements as they can show off their prized possessions while keeping clutter at bay.

Says Huanmin, "Our home is exactly what we envisioned because Carmen understood what we wanted. The panels help to compartmentalise the house so that it feels less cluttered. At the same time, pulling out different panels lets us use the space differently."

Another area that has been custom-built for Huanmin and Jiayin is the recessed seating area in the dining zone. Because the home came with an open-plan layout, the house-shape recess works as an anchor in the eating area. It is a smart move too as the recess adds two to three additional seats, which further opens up the dining and cooking zone.

The living area adjacent to this space is fitted with a raised platform that contains even more storage solutions. Fitted with pullout





Photo: Wolf Woof

RECESSED SEATING AREA
One of the more unusual features of this home is the recessed seating area in the dining zone shaped like a house. The use of a recess not only adds visual interest to the space, it also allows the homeowners to save some room in an open-plan kitchen and dining area.

drawers and doors, the platform is constructed out of white and woodgrain laminates.

One of the major works done to the unit is the hacking away of the wall between the living room and master bedroom. In its place, tempered glass panels were installed. Carmen says that by doing so, the home appears larger, and at the same time, it makes the interiors airy and bright as the full extent of light from the generous floor-to-ceiling window is allowed to filter in.

Complementing the fresh and unconventional fixtures that Carmen designed are equally unusual finds sourced from retailers such as Second Charm, Commune and Verde Light.

These include the mid-century modern style coffee table made from recycled teak and an eye-catching pendant light made out of natural driftwood. Carmen advised the couple on the kinds of furnishings and accessories to buy for their home to help ensure that there is consistency in achieving a cohesive and stylish home. The young couple's personalities and tastes are also evident in the quirky accessories strewn around the home. While things like a ceramic dinosaur and fish-shaped cushions may appear out of place in certain homes, these accents only add to the charm of the cosy dwelling.

"I advised Huanmin and Jiayin on what sofas, chairs, dining table and small accessories like dustbins and rugs to buy. This is to help them ensure that there is consistency in achieving the desired look for their homes."

Carmen Tang, Design Director, Wolf Woof

MATERIALS



VERTICAL GARDEN
Artificial ferns



GRAPHIC DETAIL
Vinyl decals



RAISED PLATFORM
Woodgrain laminates



CORRIDOR
Situated along the right side of this corridor are the apartment's two entrances. There's a main entrance, which was enlarged to create a pivot door, and a smaller doorway that leads directly into the kitchen and utility room. Large, evocative art pieces create a sense of drama along this walkway.



FIRST RUNNER-UP
SQUAREROOMS HOME SEARCH 2015

discerning TASTES

The first runner-up in our inaugural Home Search competition catches our eye with tasteful furnishings and a well-coordinated colour scheme

TEXT Ho Pei Ying **PHOTOS** Justin Loh and Vicky Andhika
STYLING Ho Pei Ying & Linda Setiono

DINING ROOM
An eye-catching Flos pendant dominates this eating space furnished also by a 3-m-long table and bright yellow chairs, all sourced from Pomelo. When lit, the design of the Zeppelin S2 chandelier is such that it appears to be made up of a series of mini lights despite just having a single bulb.



3 ROOM APARTMENT

1,650 sqf

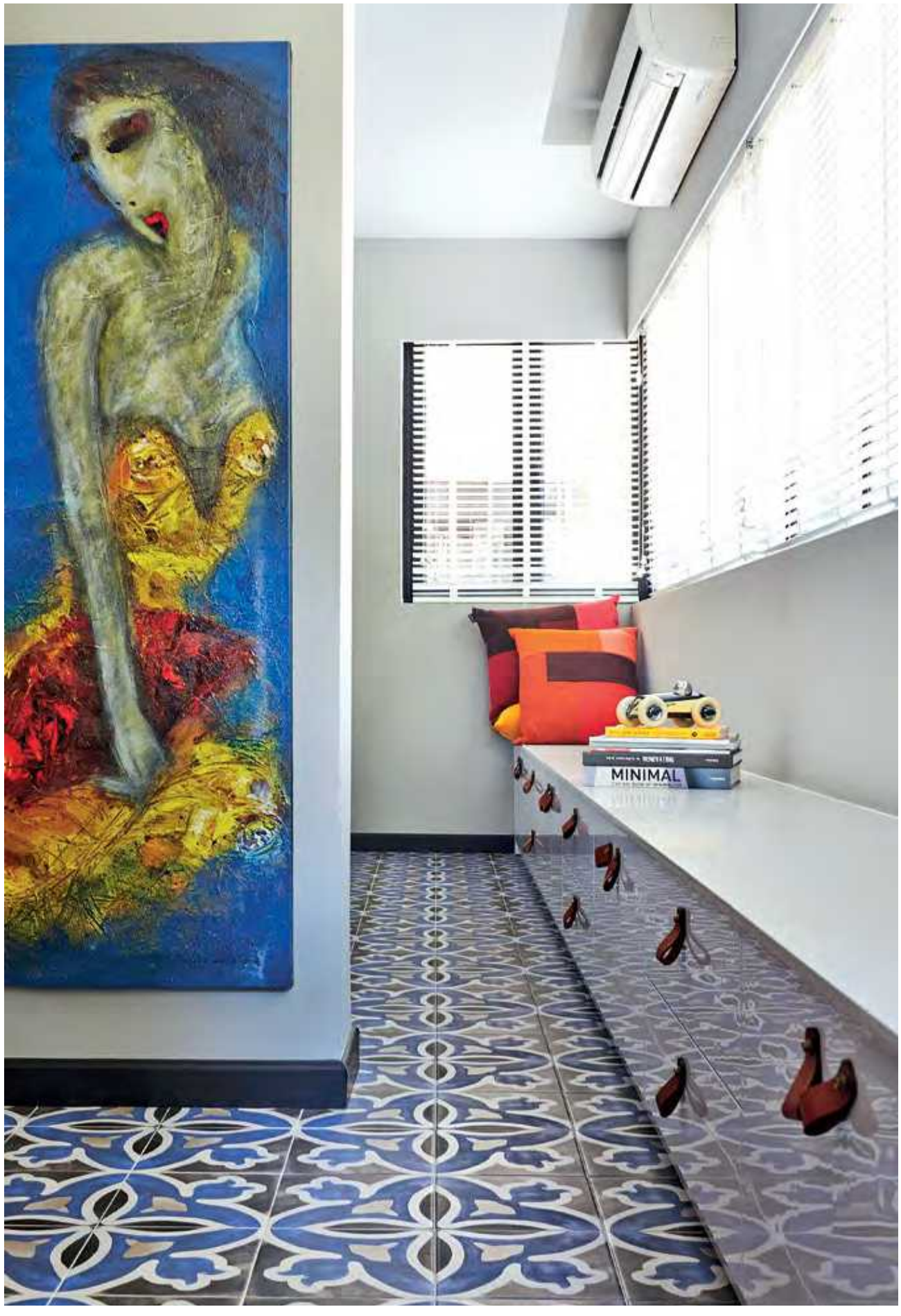
HOME TO **BUDGET**

$150K (EXCLUDING FURNISHINGS)

MARINE PARADE ROAD

Nothing says a perfect home like one that you designed yourself. It may be a far-fetched dream for many, but for homeowner James Koh, it was the reality. "Why engage a designer, when I could stamp my mark on my own home?" says the 40-something bachelor. His day job is to hunt for talents in the media sector, but James also runs an interior design firm on the side. His foray into interior design has an interesting back story: it actually stemmed from a conversation with a former editor of SquareRooms, Deborah Jane Goon. "One of my earlier homes was featured in SquareRooms, and Deborah, who was editor at the time, told me I had a good eye. That started the ball rolling, and I began designing homes for my friends, which eventually led to my own business."

His current apartment is not the first home he designed for himself. His previous flat was furnished in an industrial theme, brimming with unfinished surfaces and dark, edgy finishes and decor. As such, he decided to move away from that in this home to embrace a more eclectic style and a colourful palette.





Normann Copenhagen Brick Cushion, retailing at Lifestorey

COSY CORNER
(left)
To create more storage space, James built a series of low cabinets furnished with leather straps for handles just below the window. It also doubles as a cosy corner for reading or for his two cats to curl into whenever they feel like it.

GATHERING SPACE
(opposite page)
The living and dining rooms are not the only places in the apartment where guests can sit and mingle. The occasional host created plenty of extra sitting room in his house. Just behind the sofa, a pair of chairs from Dream and a low table from XTRA present another area for gathering.

SPACES





OVERVIEW

James based his colour scheme on the Peranakan-inspired tiles he chose for his flooring. The communal zones see a spectrum of blues accented with blacks, with the occasional pop of yellow. An open-plan layout allows the interior to appear larger and to invite more light to flood into the different nooks in the home.

James also wanted to pay tribute to his Peranakan roots, which saw him going for Peranakan-inspired tiles in the communal spaces. The geometric tiles became his main design inspiration for the rest of his home; the colour scheme, for instance, was lifted out from the hues seen on the tiles.

Despite the intricate motifs, the home doesn't feel overly busy, which is a feat in itself as the apartment is also fully furnished with artworks and sculptures that James sourced from his travels around the world. Instead, everything comes together nicely thanks to the harmonising colour scheme. There are few built-ins in the apartment – James feels that too many built-ins would make the home feel like a showroom – save for the walk-in wardrobe, kitchen cabinets and counter, bookshelves and a series of low-lying cabinets below the window. Most of the pieces are standalone, purchased from shops such as Dream, XTRA and Pomelo, which provide greater flexibility and allow him to move things around whenever he wants – particularly useful, since he entertains occasionally.



STUDY
James spends most of his time in the study, where he frequently works from home. A glass sliding door retains the sense of openness and helps to draw daylight into the room, but it still keeps the area semi-private to block off unwanted noise from outside whenever necessary.

A lot of work was done to create a place that James could feel right at home in. A fan of big and open spaces, James knocked down a lot of walls to create an open-plan layout between the communal zones. The study is kept distinct with a sliding door, but it was constructed out of glass to instil a sense of openness seen in the rest of the apartment. Natural light filters between the spaces and air is allowed to flow freely throughout the home, so the place feels particularly bright and airy.

In contrast, the bedrooms are secured with solid sliding doors for privacy. The busy-looking tiles seen in the rest of the home were also replaced with grey hexagonal ones in the master bedroom. Here, James wanted a more muted scheme conducive for unwinding and relaxing. To accommodate his extensive collection of clothes, he also created a walk-in wardrobe in a small corner of the room. The TV feature wall is also flanked by extra closet spaces.

When asked if there's anything he would like to change about his home, James tells us that he loves it just the way it is. But he admits that finding a place to display his growing collection of curios and objets d'art is becoming a problem. "I'm actually already running out of space!" laughs James. "But that's a good problem to have, isn't it?" It definitely is.



MASTER BEDROOM
(left)
Contrasting the vivacious colour scheme in the communal zones, the master bedroom features a more subdued palette to create a more calming mood. Stacked suitcases in front of the bed act as additional storage for fashion accessories.

MASTER BATHROOM
(below)
Matte-black fixtures and sand-coloured surfaces keep things classy in the en suite. Like the rest of the home, the bathroom also features an open concept, with glass dividers and doors separating the space.



MATERIALS



LIVING ROOM FLOORING
Spanish tiles from Hafary



KITCHEN CABINETS
Glossy black laminates



MASTER EN-SUITE WALLS
Travertine tiles from Hafary

VIVID *splendour*

Featuring two distinct design themes, this condominium unit at d'Leedon is the perfect living space for the young and old

TEXT Stanley Lim **PHOTOS** Free Space Intent



As the antithesis to a luxurious-modern design scheme, splashy colours rarely appear alongside a more sophisticated palette of black, white and gold. However, this four-room condominium bucks the trend by featuring both class and zest within the same residence. Home to a married couple with four children, each of the unit's rooms caters to the distinct preferences of their respective occupants.

Following requests for a kid-friendly environment, the interior designers from Free Space Intent sought to create a cheery look for the children's bedrooms and the nursing room. On the other hand, a more sumptuous appearance was adopted for the master



LIVING ROOM
Exuding sophistication without being over-the-top, the living and dining areas in this home feature stylish fittings and materials such as marble-look laminates and upholstered furniture that lend a classy touch.



Gold cushion from BoConcept

DINING AREA
Padded seats, velvet cushions, chrome pendant lamps and a glossy black dining table make for an distinctive restaurant-worthy dining area at home. Completing the opulent setting is a stunning feature wall laid with tinted mirrors and gold-flecked tiles.





bedroom, study room and central living area. The end result is a pronounced contrast across the different apartment spaces.

Through a mix of stylish surfaces and furnishings, the central living room manages to exude sophistication without being overly gaudy. A pristine homogeneous floor gives off an unsullied appearance that is reinforced by the ceiling with its ivory-white paint scheme. Velvet brown curtains separate the living space from the balcony while blending well into the surrounding decor. The inclusion of a grey-and-white sofa set also helps in underpinning a subtly elegant theme.

On the other hand, the nearby dining area places a greater emphasis on the use of sophisticated-looking materials. Occupying much of the central space is a glossy black table which blends well with the general look of the adjacent living room. Positioned directly above, spherical ceiling lamps complement the posh image with their distinctive silver-chrome finish. Lastly, a set of custom-made triangular mirrors and gold-flecked walls complete the impression of opulence.

"One particular challenge, however, was the curved angle of the dining area's walls," says Raymond Seow, who was primarily responsible for the renovation works. "We had to install a made-to-order sofa to provide sufficient seating for the client's family and to ensure that it fit into the overall arc of the area."

Like the central living area, the master bedroom exudes luxury with its hotel-like ambiance and easy-on-the-eye fittings.

ENTRANCE CORRIDOR
(top, left)
Marble-effect wall panels make a good match for the glossy white flooring leading into the living room. This area is reminiscent of hotel entryways thanks to its clutter-free appearance and luxurious finishes.

STUDY
(top, right)
The study room exudes a soft elegance with the inclusion of a velvet carpet and gold-framed furnishings. Instead of building floor-to-ceiling cabinet doors, the team from Free Space Intent installed display niches so that the homeowners can show off their mementos.



MASTER BEDROOM
Since there is so much light filtering in from the generous walls of windows, the design team decided to colour the walls and ceilings of the master bedroom in midnight blue and gold. The result is a luxurious atmosphere that invites the homeowners to completely relax.

The room's generous king-sized bed lends a reassuring feel to the room's atmosphere with its satin backing and soft cerulean sheets. Meanwhile, the midnight blue ceiling forms an earthly contrast when juxtaposed against the parquet flooring.

Taking up much of the bedroom's wall space is an array of windows which offers a panoramic view of the vicinity. However, one downside of this layout is the inability to install wall-mounted storage options, such as wardrobes and cabinets. Fortunately, this problem was circumvented through the installation of table surfaces which can double as a dresser and storage space.

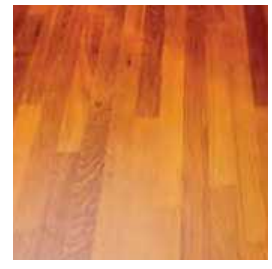
Due to their similar layout, comparable fittings can also be found in the children's bedroom with a table cum drawer mounted at the base of the room's windows. Nonetheless, accessories notwithstanding, the similarities between both living quarters end here. This is due to the marked difference in design style as the children's bedroom features a comparably brighter appearance. Vivid colours are the focus here, with blue, orange and yellow being used heavily for the fabric-lined bay window seats and bed backing.

A similar colour concept was chosen for the nursing room, albeit with a greater focus on baby pink and white as the main hues. The nursing room also features a number of custom furnishings. For instance, the window bed has cabinets installed below for easy storage and access to baby supplies. Meanwhile, fence-like veneers mounted on the walls lend the room a serene, pastoral aspect. And finally, the cheery ambiance is made complete with the inclusion of a celestial-themed ceiling lamp.

MATERIALS



ENTRYWAY
Marble-look glossy laminates



MASTER BEDROOM
Parquet floors



Lucky colours

Incorporating the right colours in the home can be auspicious for your future prospects. Sean Lui, the Principal Consultant of 6 Charms Singapore shares some advice on using colours to create good vibes in your living space.

Balancing act

Feng shui is about balancing the energy at home, so if your house is too dark, using bright colours can balance the flow of energy. Sean recommends applying off-white tones that are barely white with a combination of blue, light green, orange or red in the living room. On the other hand, if your home has too much natural daylight streaming in or if it faces a building with reflective surfaces, you should tone it down with off-white colour schemes with brown or grey tones, and complement it with a touch of warm blue tones or maroon.

Hues to use

While there are no hard and fast rules when it comes to using colours to increase your feng shui "rating" at home, Sean advises that there are certain colours homeowners can use in different areas of the home.

He recommends using warm colours with a touch of brown in the bedroom to promote good sleep. In the living room, off-white tones with a touch of green represent positive energy. A mix of green, blue and red in the kitchen promotes wealth energy for the household as it represents a good combination of wood, water and fire elements respectively, while in the dining room using green tones promotes prosperity and positive communication. In the home office or study, Sean says that a metallic touch of gold or silver paint set against a brown toned background helps to promote career growth and breakthrough.

One's true colours

If you would like to go further with using colours to usher in positive energy into the home, Sean says that you can apply different colour tones for individual family members based on their birth chart (bazhi). "Favourable colours, even for the young occupants of the home, can be determined by studying their birth chart and identifying the colours that inspire their intelligence and promote good health," he adds, "While this may take a bit more effort, customising the colour tones for each individual can reap great rewards in the long run."

However, there is one general rule that Sean says homeowners should apply at home. "In feng shui, we try to avoid using black as it promotes too much yin energy," he advises, "If you are keen to play around with dark colours at home for design purposes, I'd propose using grey tones as it is easier to manage by blending it with the rest of the colours of the home while not affecting the feng shui 'rating'."



Sean Lui is the Principal Consultant of 6 Charms Singapore, a well-established feng shui consultancy firm wholly owned by Chinese Heritage Foundation. He has more than 17 years of experience as a corporate feng shui and Chinese heritage consultant.

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LA VIE EST BELLE



OVERALL
Almost every inch of the communal areas is dressed in wallpaper – even the structural beam is not spared. The rest of the surfaces such as the kitchen counter and island units are kept subtle with matte textures to downplay the glamorous style.

a slice OF WHIMSY

With its unusual layout and unconventional decor, this three-room HDB apartment belonging to interior designer New Nyew is a daring example that less is not always more

TEXT Disa Tan **PHOTOS** New Nyew LLP

3 ROOM HDB FLAT

720 sqf

HOME TO

8 WEEKS RENO PERIOD

BUDGET **$100K** (INCLUDING FURNISHINGS)


ROSSING, ELEG
OUS AND SEDU
THE
TOGETHER ANY





Always keeping things fresh and exciting, New Nyew, the tireless designer from the eponymous interior design firm New Nyew LLP can't seem to settle for a simple renovation with few details for her own home. There is a good reason why she takes so much pride in every home she owns: prospective clients get a clearer idea of their own renovation and her work by visiting her "showflat".

With less space to work with in this flat as compared to her previous spacious 1,001-square foot HDB dwelling, New took this as an opportunity to really work her space-maximising magic. It shows as we enter the home and step into a world of eye-catching wallpaper prints. We have arrived at the kitchen. She says, "Because we entertain

DINING AREA
(above)
Outfitted with tons of open and concealed storage, the dining area even hosts a bench which spans the entire length of the space. Interesting accents such as the step-up emerald green cabinet with lion door knockers and a wallpaper with antiquated frames offer a thrift shop charm.

KITCHEN
(left)
The biggest space reshuffle is the kitchen. It was flipped from the back where the living area and study now are. It has been relocated to the front and is privy to the view of the glass closet.



Caribbean Water Roll wallpaper from Milton & King

STUDY
The inverted "V" indent of this study desk was customised to better accommodate New's carpal tunnel syndrome, allowing her to place her right arm at an ergonomic position.

very often, we flipped the kitchen, which was located at the back, to the front. We also took most of the boundary walls down to create a bigger space for gatherings."

While lots of visual accents such as eye-catching wallpaper prints can prove too overwhelming, New's choice of patterns transports you into a golden era of revelry. This richness, in all the right places, and in a very rare architectural detail of a pitched roof for a HDB flat, push the confines of this space beyond its existing square footage.

Besides the charming wall coverings, the lavish use of custom-built fixtures with clever, space-enhancing features significantly opens up the flow of the space as well. For instance, the two island units with a trapezium-like base





in the dining room and kitchen is not only interesting to look at, it also offers ample leg room when one is seated. It also, as New explains, “prevents accidental kicks to the base”.

Heading to the centre of the almost wall-free flat, we spot vinyl leather seats in a chilli red tone. Lined neatly across the wall, it faces a row of step-up cabinets in emerald green. These cabinets serve as additional bench seating should all the seats in the living, kitchen and dining get snapped up. With that, the home can host a party of 20 quite easily and comfortably. The living area also shares the swivelling, double-access TV with the bedroom.

Just before the master bedroom is a streamlined array of switches lined on the wall. This convenience of having two-way switches for the entire home in one space allows New to take full control of her utility amenities without venturing all over the place. With little need for excessive privacy since the home is occupied by just her husband and her, New boldly went without a door for her bedroom. In fact, the freshly-built false

OPEN CONCEPT
Most of the private areas in the home follow an open-plan concept. The concrete sink covered with tiles is enveloped by an overhead structure and encloses the space within a cosy nook.



MASTER BEDROOM
(left)
With a boundary walls not extending all the way to close off the only bedroom, the home is able to sport an open and light-filled ceiling that spans across the entire home. The semi open-concept bedroom also features a tempered glass closet with its contents colour coordinated by interior designer New Nyew herself.

MASTER BATHROOM
(below)
Dark, lustrous wall tiles with metallic grouting are contrasted by gold textured pebble wash flooring. Wall tiles depicting diagonal wood panelling for the shower stall add a pop of colour.

> *"It may seem gutsy to have a completely see-through wardrobe but when you're a neat freak like me, it's easy!"*
> ***New Nyew, designer, New Nyew LLP***

boundary walls don't extend all the way towards the pitched ceiling, and the contents of her closet can actually be seen from the glass panel separating the bedroom from the kitchen.

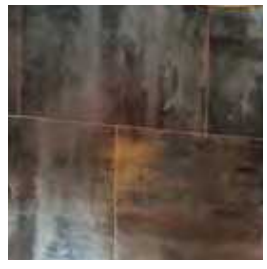
Save for the frosted glass doors that cordon the two bathrooms, the home is pretty much door-free and this advocates an open, fluid and much bigger impression of space. With a modern lifestyle that allow for more flexible and liberal settings, it is no wonder New and her husband can still enjoy a spacious environment in a much smaller living space.



MATERIALS



STRUCTURAL BEAM
Stone-effect wallpaper



BATHROOM WALL
Homogeneous tiles

aerogaz

www.aerogaz.com



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WONDERFULLY SIMPLE



staying IN SYNC

This open and spacious love nest for a young couple is unified through a harmonised scheme of wood surfaces, neutral hues and black accents

TEXT Ho Pei Ying **PHOTOS** Fuse Concept



OVERALL
Defined by black track lighting in the ceiling, the spacious communal zone is clearly separated into different areas for different purposes. The open-plan space comes together however, thanks to the wood-dominated surfaces and neutral colour scheme.

5 ROOM HDB FLAT
1,216 sqf
HOME TO **BUDGET**
$55K (EXCLUDING FURNISHINGS)
FERNVALE STREET

SIMILAR BUT DIFFERENT
To unify the designated eating areas in the home, similar glass pendant lights were chosen for the dining area and breakfast bar. Nonetheless, they were kept distinct – the ones at the breakfast bar come with a concrete rim and amber tinge contrasting with the clear glass design of the dining area's lights – in order to distinguish both spaces.



“An open concept not only creates space, it also brings in natural light and helps in ventilation, which were what the homeowners wanted.”

Wayne Ching, designer, Fuse Concept

Entering the home of Mak and Dionne, one immediately notices how spacious the place is. It’s a good thing too, since the homeowners seem to have a lot to put in. Separate zones were created in the main communal area, each serving a different purpose and aesthetic. There is a main gathering space where the couple unwinds, a casual breakfast bar, a formal dining area and a study cum hobby zone. The bedrooms are located in the inner section of the home along a narrow corridor, so there is a clear demarcation between the communal and private zones.

The spaciousness of the unit is partly attributed to the open-plan layout. One of the potential pitfalls of an open concept is that everything can be seen more clearly, so furnishings and fixtures have to be tastefully arranged in order to make sure the home wouldn’t look like a complete mess. Thankfully, Mak is organised by nature so the home maintains a semblance of order. Everything also comes together



ISLAND COUNTER
Designed in a unique, kinked shape to match the herringbone-patterned flooring, the island counter provides a less formal area for the couple to have their breakfast and light meals. Behind, a collage of colourful artworks adds a cheerful touch to the industrial hues in the rest of the space.





KITCHEN
(above)
Despite the neutral tones in this open cooking space, the variety of surfaces here creates visual interest. White bevelled subway tiles provide extra texture and a clean aesthetic amid cabinets swathed in two different woodgrain laminates – the lower cupboards were set in a darker shade – and black quartz countertops.

STUDY + HOBBY CORNER
(top, right)
Part of the living room was set aside for a study alcove and a place to display Mak's guitar collection. To demarcate the area, it was fitted into a recessed wall.

with a coordinated colour scheme of neutrals, comprising greys, whites and wood tones accented with black. Occasional pops of colour lift up the space, and reveal the couple's playful dispositions.

The young couple had chanced upon designer Wayne Ching of Fuse Concept after searching for interior designers online. It's a rare occasion to find someone who understands you well, and a lot less common to find an interior designer who recognises your needs and intuitively understands what you want. But to Mak and Dionne, Wayne was a lucky find because the designer was not only sensitive to their needs and budget concerns, he was also proficient in terms of handling unforeseen problems that arose during the renovation.

Mak and Dionne were clear about what they wanted, which made the design process a lot easier, although they left it to Wayne to decide on the specifics. One thing they requested for was a flooring set in a classic herringbone pattern. The designer did it up for them using tiles made to look like natural wood. It deviates from the conventional linear design and makes for an arresting focal point for the cavernous communal space.

One of the other striking designs in this area is the island counter, constructed to be distinct from the more formal dining space next to it. It is set in an unusual shape, made deliberately kinked to parallel the herringbone patterned flooring. Woodgrain laminates cover the island – the countertop features a dark





&Tradition Copenhague Pendant Lamp, retailing at Grafunkt

MASTER BEDROOM
(above)
Simply furnished with matte-black accessories and a recessed wall painted in modern grey, the bedroom looks contemporary and chic. The most noteworthy feature here is the wardrobe, which is sealed off with a grey fabric curtain to work around the bedroom's space restriction as well as to evoke a more comforting vibe in the sleeping quarters.

MASTER EN SUITE
(right)
Rather than retain the original white glossy and multi-coloured mosaic tiles, Wayne went with a more organic look in the master bathroom with surfaces covered in grey cement-like tiles and a vanity cabinet decked out in woodgrain laminates.





FLOORING
Inlaid with wood-printed tiles set in a classic herringbone pattern, the communal zone's flooring presents an unusual focal point for the home. In order to achieve their desired look, the couple looked at countless tile samples before settling for this raw, rustic shade.

woodgrain pattern while the sides show off a natural plywood colour with black trimming. The same plywood laminate was used for the shoe cabinet, built to overlay the original shoe storage shelves that came with the unit.

Moving into the private spaces, the master bedroom adopts a similar scheme to the rest of the home. The sleeping quarters is decked out in matte-black furnishings, while a recessed wall is painted the same grey shade used in the living room. The most notable design here however is the wardrobe. Flushed against the wall, the full-height closet features a curtain in place of doors, which is not only space friendly in the tight bedroom but also adds a cosiness and softness to the private sanctuary.

MATERIALS



ISLAND COUNTERTOP
Koko Ramshackle laminates from Lamitak



KITCHEN BACKSPLASH
White subway tiles from Hafary



COMMUNAL ZONE FLOORING
Wood printed tiles

KNOCK ON WOOD

The intricate layering of woodgrain textures brings the outdoors into this bright and airy home



FACT FILE

SPACE 5-room HDB flat unit
SIZE 1,184 square feet
LOCATION Fernvale Link
HOME TO A family of four
DESIGNER Renozone
RENO PERIOD Eight weeks

The design team at Renozone prides themselves on creating long-term relationships with their customers. One of the main reasons why they manage to cultivate such amiable ties is because the company takes pride in all the projects that they have completed. Renozone guarantees quality workmanship and services, making customer satisfaction their top priority.

< LIVING

It's fascinating how simple wooden touches can enhance the look of a home so dramatically. The designers at Renozone dressed up this abode in laminates of varying wood finishes, which pair gorgeously well with the cream hues and stark black accents. Within the living area is an enclosed space that serves as the chanting room for the family, bordered by sliding louvred doors and black aluminium-framed doors that swivel out for easy access.

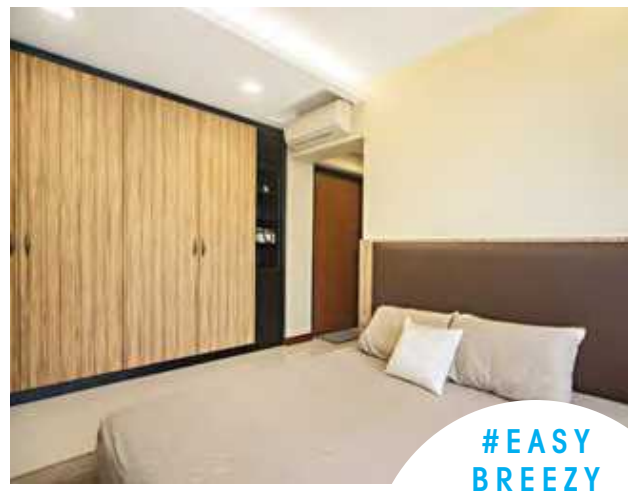


< DINING

An eye-catching wallpaper of lush greenery adds a touch of nature to the dining area, while breaking the monotony of the wood-dominated decor. A mirror on the opposite wall reflects the wallpaper, which allows you to appreciate the design from another angle.

v KITCHEN

After doing away with the walls for an open-concept kitchen, the designers decked out the space in different toned floor tiles to separate it from the dining area. The rest of the kitchen is swathed in the same woody aesthetics to maintain the visual flow between the different zones.





#EASY BREEZY

These louvred doors facilitate air flow in the chanting room, and at the same time, offer privacy when needed.





^ BEDROOMS

Both bedrooms follow a clean-cut scheme, with the wood tones pared down to keep up with the neutral palette. What's also common are the wardrobes, which are done up in a darker and lighter shade to blend in seamlessly with the respective interiors.

RENOZONE INTERIOR DESIGN HOUSE

1 Jalan Klapa, Singapore 199313
Tel: 6292 3345 **Fax:** 6292 3045 **Email:** admin@renozone.com.sg
Web: www.renozone.com.sg

MINIMALISTIC CHIC

Clean lines, delicate accents and punches of pastel come together to create a truly harmonious living space



FACT FILE

SPACE 5-room HDB flat unit
SIZE 1,100 square feet
LOCATION Sengkang East Avenue
HOME TO A young couple
DESIGNER Lewis Chee from Z L Construction
RENO PERIOD Seven weeks

Starting out in the late seventies, Z L Construction was once the subsidiary company of a family-run corporation. Focusing on residential upgrades and HDB renovations, the firm believes in offering sincerity, honesty and quality assurance to its clientele. By building their reputation through the years, they have grown to become a trusted name for homeowners plus commercial and industrial customers alike. Armed with a team of trusted professionals, Z L Construction aims to provide top-notch personable service and quality workmanship for all customers.





#MEMORY CORNER

A shoe cabinet along the hallway does double duty as a display nook for the couple's decorative pieces.

< LIVING AND DINING

Grounding the communal space in a crisp minimalist scheme, designer Lewis Chee mixed in light wood finishes and pops of pastel to bring the room to life. One trademark aesthetic is the exposed wire lines which run throughout the household. To aid the wiring of electrical fixtures, black conduits were attached to the ceiling.

> MASTER BEDROOM

Initially, the couple requested for a bigger wardrobe but was met with space constraints. As such, Lewis hacked down walls from an adjoining bedroom to expand the area. Aptly, it's donned in white to go along with the monochrome theme, complete with caged pendant lights to add a dash of industrial flair.





< KITCHEN

After knocking down the original wall between the living room and kitchen, the team re-built a half height L-shaped wall to improve the influx of natural light flowing into the living area. The revamped space is now encased by black aluminium frames and replaced with clear windows that let daylight in. Adopting a clean-cut scheme, Lewis invigorated the kitchen with crisp all-white cabinets and chose the classic subway tiles as the backsplash. An additional wood-accented worktop was installed to bring in some warmth and colour to the kitchen, which is mainly white.

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Tel: 6284 0118 **Email:** ask@zlconstruction.com.sg
Web: www.zlconstruction.com.sg

ALL IN ONE

This multifunctional apartment shows how you can create an open-concept setting that's cosy and cohesive



FACT FILE

SPACE 4-room HDB executive unit
SIZE 1,550 square feet
LOCATION Choa Chu Kang
HOME TO A couple
DESIGNER Perlyn Poh from Sun Hup
RENO PERIOD Eight weeks

Backed up by 20 years of experience, Sun Hup Interior Contracts has never failed to deliver superb workmanship and excellent services to clients. Taking pride in their work as a renovation contractor, Sun Hup aims to maintain top-notch quality in every project they undertake, no matter the budget or style.

> **KITCHEN**

Decked out in stunning black tiles, the kitchen is made extra spacious to cater to the wife's culinary needs to serve as a weekend hangout spot for guests. Perlyn extended the kitchen by hacking down the walls of the existing study room. The corner unit comes with a balcony which further elongates the kitchen. A quartz island provides more countertop space for food preperation and entertaining.



< **LIVING**

The living room was raised on a platform swathed in a woodgrain laminate to set the space apart in the open-plan layout. A rotating TV wall mount allows the family to swivel the TV in whichever direction they want.

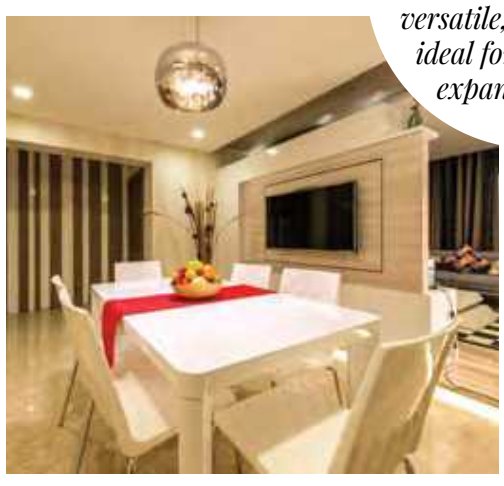
v **DINING**

In contrast with the living room, the dining area is covered in a gleaming white marble. The furniture is kept simple to better accentuate the luxurious flooring.



#IN THE FOLD

The beauty of bi-fold doors is that they are extremely stylish and versatile, making them ideal for segregating expansive areas.





v **BATHROOM**

Instead of marble, Perlyn enveloped the bathroom in ceramic. It imitates the look of the material, making the space feel bright and cosy. The sink adds a pop of gold, which looks luxe against the white palette.



< **MASTER BEDROOM**

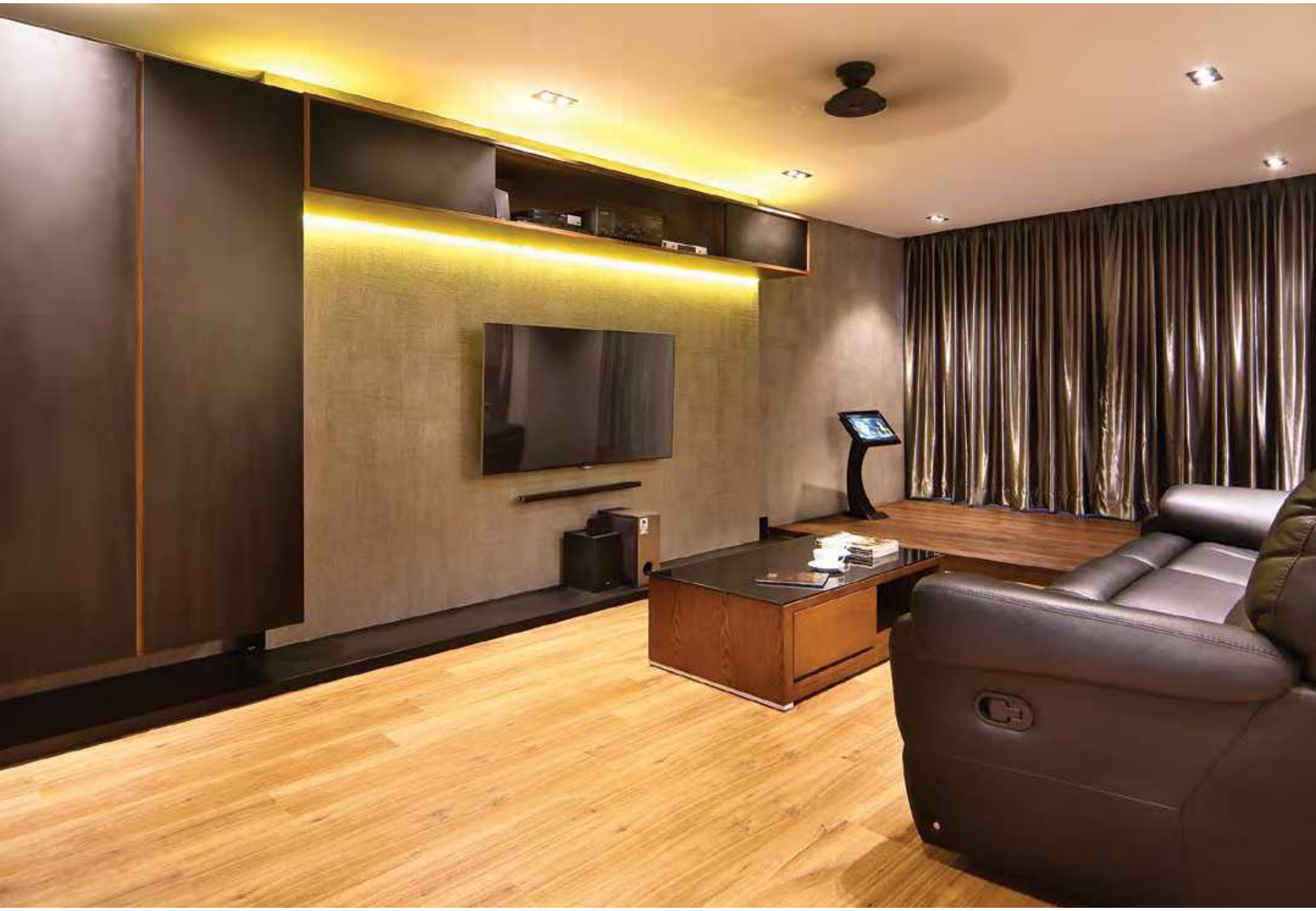
The master bedroom is a swanky display of dark wood patterns and warm ambient lights, while an intricate wallpaper makes for a great centrepiece. A partition is added between the bed and bathroom to carve out a space for a walk-in wardrobe, which would come in handy for the wife to showcase her collection of branded bags.

SUN HUP INTERIOR CONTRACTS PTE LTD

No.18 #01-98b Boon Lay Way, Tradehub 21, Singapore 609966
Tel: 6795 8998 / 9768 0883 **Fax:** 6793 2998 **Email:** sunhup88@gmail.com
Web: www.dzignstation.com.sg

SIMPLY ZEN

Nature-inspired grains laced with Asian influences showcase Zen fusion at its finest



FACT FILE

SPACE 5-room HDB flat unit
SIZE 1,300 square feet
LOCATION Pending Road
HOME TO Family of four
DESIGNER Aclester Lim from Hue Concept
RENO PERIOD Two months

Turning dream homes into reality, Hue Concept is all about delivering a midas touch of design flair to abodes. Elevating style to another level, they also endeavor to create homes of functionality to better the lives of those living in it. So, if you're looking for style and substance, you can entrust your living space to the good hands of Hue Concept.

< LIVING

Well-appointed furniture and an abundance of wood cladding make an impressive impact in this indulgent living space. Aclester also gave the walls a faux stucco effect for a dash of industrial flavour. An elevated platform functions as the entertainment area for the family to engage in recreational games.

v DINING

What truly steals the show in the dining area is the heavily-textured wall anchored by a continuous wooden handle. Spotlights along the wall cast a gallery-like glow, while doors leading to the sleeping quarters are cleverly concealed behind the feature wall for a seamless look.



v KITCHEN

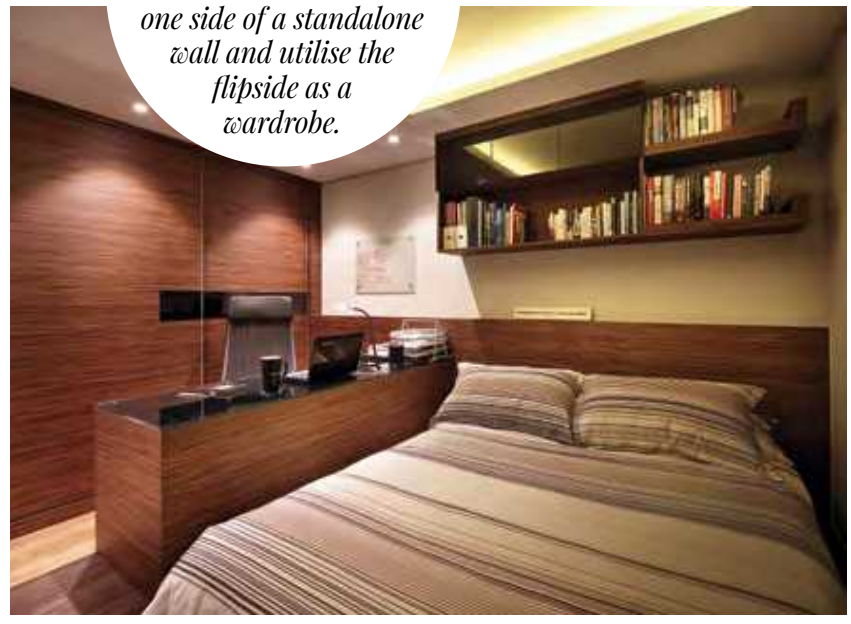
White laminated cabinets coupled with Caesarstone countertops look pristine in the kitchen. A wooden in-built shelving in the left section distinguishes it from the main cooking area, but there's more than meets the eye — it actually hides the bomb shelter and bathroom away from view.





#TWO SIDES OF A COIN

Have the entertainment peripherals mounted on one side of a standalone wall and utilise the flipside as a wardrobe.



^ BEDROOM

Aclester worked around the space restrictions by integrating the workstation, wardrobe and headboard together. He then maximised storage options with display shelves above the bed to store books and hidden compartments within the platform.

HUE CONCEPT INTERIOR DESIGN PTE LTD

No 33 Ubi Ave 3 #01-25, Vertex Building, Singapore 408868
Tel: 6636 7202 **Fax:** 6636 7205 **Email:** askhue@hueconcept.com
Web: www.hueconcept.com

UNIVERSAL APPEAL

By fusing modern sensibilities with timeless charm, this living space is set to look classic and chic for years to come



FACT FILE

SPACE	3-bedroom condominium unit
SIZE	1,600 square feet
LOCATION	Meyer Road
HOME TO	A couple
DESIGNER	Angelyn Wong from Rezt & Relax
RENO PERIOD	Ten weeks

Founded in 2001, Rezt & Relax is the brainchild of design partners Wilson Teh and John Foo. Their portfolio includes a wide spectrum of residential and commercial projects. The team at Rezt & Relax believes in offering creative design solutions and trend forecasts to help owners relax and unwind in the comfort of their homes.

v WALK-IN WARDROBE

The walk-in wardrobe was designed to conjure up the look of a boutique, operating on a well-configured system of shelving and storage units for the occupants' clothing. Sited at the centre is a wooden island that plays host to their collection of accessories and miscellaneous knick-knacks.



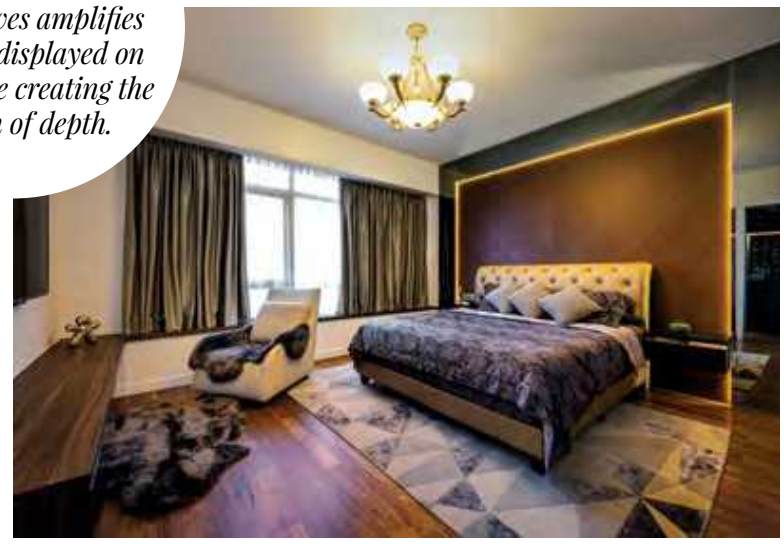
#MIRROR, MIRROR

Placing a mirror behind open shelves amplifies the items displayed on them, while creating the illusion of depth.

> MASTER BEDROOM

The bathroom wall was knocked down to make way for the spacious sleeping quarters. Designer Angelyn Wong warmed up the space with parquet flooring and added a veneer headboard wall to boot. Tied in together with the plush upholstery, the master bedroom surrounds the homeowners in royal-like comfort.





< LIVING

Sleek surfaces and lavish details create a statement in this split-level living room. Anchoring the interior in a neutral palette, Angelyn went for a truly timeless look with a marble stucco TV feature wall and juxtaposed it by doing up the adjacent wall in a coarser consistency. The contrast of rough and smooth finishes brings a sense of harmony to the space.

< DINING

While the wooden black dining table sets the scene, the main sculptural presence here is the bronze-tinted mirror panels, which impart an extra touch of swank to the area. But there's more than meets the eye: these panels actually open up to reveal a full-height shoe cabinet.

v BATHROOM

Much effort was put in to ensure that the bathroom looks and feels as sumptuous as a hotel. As the apartment is also home to two cats, Angelyn wanted to make sure it's hazard-free for the feline pals. She stayed clear of sharp corners for the bathtub and clad the exterior in bronze mosaic tiles. Unlike rigid large format tiles, mosaic tiles are compact and flexible enough to lay across curved surfaces.





REZT & RELAX INTERIOR

No. 33 Ubi Avenue 3 #02-09, Vertex Tower B (Access Lift Lobby B), Singapore 408868
Tel: 6348 7787 **Fax:** 6348 7797 **Email:** customer@reztnrelax.com
Web: www.reztnrelax.com reztnrelax

BEAUTY IN SIMPLICITY

This condominium unit with uninhibited swathes of wood on white is a minimalist dream come true



FACT FILE

SPACE 3-bedroom condominium unit
SIZE 1,700 square feet
LOCATION Depot Road
HOME TO A family of four
DESIGNER Brim Design
RENO PERIOD Eight weeks

With their creative know-how, the designers at Brim Design pride themselves on their flair for practical, everyday ideas and a keen eye for design trends. This boutique interior firm caters to residential and commercial projects of all kinds to suit most budgets. Brim Design attributes their success in the creative field to their skills in building and nurturing meaningful and lasting relationships with their customers.



< MASTER BEDROOM

It would be overwhelming on the eye if plywood was used again for the master bedroom, thus the floor is laid in timber and offset with a wooden headboard of a lighter hue instead. To conceal the bathroom door, a sliding door is built to echo the tone of the flooring.



#THE L EFFECT

An L-shaped bay window settee provides additional seating and hosts cheerful cushions.

< LIVING

The homeowners are particularly fond of real plywood, so the design team filled the apartment with lots of it, including the TV feature wall. Tones of grey and blue were introduced through the furnishings, but they were kept to muted shades to accentuate the lived-in vibe of the space.





< BEDROOM

Void of bright colours, you wouldn't expect this stylish room to be for kids. This bedroom is awash in shades of blue and punctuated with slight pops of colour, the only giveaway is the presence of toys on the display shelf.

^ DINING

Chairs and lampshades are perfectly matched in this living room, which look stunning against the backdrop of white bricks. Camouflaged storage is contained within the custom-made bench.

< BALCONY

The balcony ensures the master bedroom is well lit with natural light and offers views of the surrounding greenery. To keep in line with the plywood colours, the team opted for chengai wood decking in a similar reddish tone.

BRIM DESIGN PTE LTD

9 Marshall Road, Singapore 424845
Tel: (65) 6299 5733 **Fax:** (65) 6299 5676 **Email:** info@brimdesign.com.sg
Web: www.brimdesign.com.sg

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

This inspiring studio apartment proves that being short on space doesn't mean it has to cramp your style



FACT FILE

SPACE 1-bedroom studio apartment
SIZE 591 square feet
LOCATION Shenton Way
HOME TO A couple
DESIGNER Selvina Lim from The Orange Cube
RENO PERIOD Four weeks

Inspired and motivated to provide a complete package of services, The Orange Cube is equipped to take clients through design conception to building completion. As a result of this all-encompassing dedication, the company has amassed an impressive portfolio in both residential and commercial projects ever since its establishment 10 years ago. With their can-do attitude and enthusiasm in design and offering impeccable service, it's no wonder the company has gained a firm foothold in the interior design scene.



#POP ART

Propping art up against a plain wall like a casual gallery perks up the space with a graphic punch.



< BEDROOM

While most people think of their dream home as a huge house with room for everything, this young couple would rather go for a modest studio apartment. Converting the living room into a bedroom, the sleeping quarters makes the most of its space with a monochrome ensemble of minimalist furniture pieces. The ceiling is specially designed to complement the floating aesthetic of the raised platform. Topping it off, a stunning CraftStone TV feature wall lends textural interest to the otherwise sparse-looking room.

> KITCHEN

Having a separate dining room might seem limiting, so designer Selvina Lim constructed an island in the kitchen to double as a breakfast counter, along with a built-in oven for the female homeowner to fulfill her baking desires. She also added a mirror beside the island to bounce off light and brighten up the whole apartment.



^ WALK-IN-WARDROBE

Who says it isn't possible to build a walk-in wardrobe in tight spaces? Selvina achieved this by embracing the open-living concept and being savvy with ergonomic storage. Not only that, she managed to squeeze in a study desk that's smartly integrated with the bay window settee. It also serves as a cosy corner for the homeowners to put on their shoes or simply revel in their extensive collection.

THE ORANGE CUBE PTE LTD

14 Arumugam Road, #01-03 Lion Building C, Singapore 409959
Tel: 6337 7277 **Fax:** 6337 7570 **Email:** enquiry@theorangecube.com
Web: theorangecube.com f The Orange Cube

TOY STORY

This HDB flat unit is transformed into a stylish library for the couple to show off their collectibles



FACT FILE

SPACE	3+1 bedroom DBSS flat unit
SIZE	969 square feet
LOCATION	Bedok Reservoir
HOME TO	A couple
DESIGNER	Alvin Ang from Prozfile
RENO PERIOD	Six weeks

Prozfile is a dynamic design establishment that firmly believes good design emerges from the smooth communication channel and relationship between clients and their designers. The highly motivated design trio aims to achieve the concept of "a living space" that is not just aesthetically beautiful, but a reflection of their clients' lifestyles and personalities. With their unique approach to design while conceptualising highly polished yet simplistic homes, Prozfile is the perfect choice for people who want something different and are not afraid to stand out in the crowd.



^ **DINING**
The brick and cement combo is a great way to create a cafe-inspired setting. Half of the wall is clad in cement and half in CraftStone, along with some shelves for display. A trio of sleek pendant lights casts a warm glow on the wooden dining set.

< **LIVING**
When the young homeowners approached designer Alvin Ang, one of the requests was to have a space dedicated to their expansive collection of toys. As such, plenty of display units are scattered around the house. The standout though, is the structure in the living room — a mishmash of linear shelves and colourful display niches constructed out of plywood laminates. Dark walls mixed with wood bring the whole industrial-Scandi look together.

v **KITCHEN**
Wire mesh is another classic choice to draw cues to the industrial theme. Hence, Alvin replaced the doors of the shoe cabinets and kitchen with the material. He then erected an additional wooden border to highlight the doorway.



v **STUDY**
The study is done up with the intention of making it into a his and hers corner, with desks mounted at comfortable heights for the couple. Built-in display cases provide them with enough room to store their home office accessories.



#HEADS UP
This dramatic headboard really steals the show in the bedroom, but it's also a quirky way to showcase their home decor.



PROZFILE PTE LTD
1 Starlight Road, Singapore 217754
Tel: 6396 6672 **Fax:** 6396 6673 **Email:** info@prozfile.com.sg
Web: www.prozfile.com.sg

PERFECT HARMONY

This apartment perfects the art of design continuity with the use of sleek lines, structured forms and seductive ambient lights



FACT FILE

SPACE 4-room Dual-Key Executive Condominium
SIZE 1,200 square feet
LOCATION Bukit Panjang
HOME TO A couple
DESIGNER Clive Tan from Living Gaia
RENO PERIOD Two months

At Living Gaia Interior, dedicated and talented interior designers are on hand to interpret and achieve your interior desires. The company's aim is to provide professional interior design consultancy which is creative, cost effective and exceptional. With a combined experience of over 30 years, Living Gaia's experts strive to achieve excellent customer service, timely completion and excellent workmanship. In addition, aligning with the design firm's green vision, environmentally-friendly and sustainable products are used in the construction of its projects.





#LAW OF SYMMETRY

A stretch of dummy doors runs parallel with the TV console in the living area, achieving a sneaky sense of mirroring ratio.

< LIVING

When designer Clive Tan was tasked to come up with a unique focal point for this new home, he decided to play with the scale of the room. The result? A distinguishing wall-to-ceiling TV feature wall that draws your eye upon walking in. It is constructed from a mixture of laminates and fitted in with recessed lights to make a dramatic visual impact.

> DINING

A striking display feature wall finds common ground with the one in the living area, mimicking the design of its counterpart to unify the two spaces. Made of stainless steel, the protruding ledges are arranged at varying heights for a casual, artistic display. LED strips are installed within the wall to garner more visual appeal for the ornaments.





^ MASTER BEDROOM

Combining two rooms into one, the master bedroom is fleshed out to accommodate two individual workstations plus a sizable wardrobe for the couple. To visually demarcate the working space from the wardrobe area, Clive built an elevated platform to host the study desks. Lights beneath the platform create a floating effect and add a subtle glow to the room. The same display feature wall in the dining area is replicated here to maintain an element of continuity.

LIVING GAIA INTERIOR PTE LTD

33 Ubi Avenue 3, #01-42 Vertex, Singapore 408868
Tel: 6509 8866 / 6636 7923 **Email:** enquiries@livinggaia.com.sg
Web: www.livinggaia.com.sg f Living Gaia Interior

point of VIEW

Secure your home and create a conducive indoor environment with the variety of windows and doors from Window World

Besides having crucial functions such as protecting the home from outside elements, bringing in light and facilitating ventilation, windows and doors are also architectural focal points for the home. As such, there is a need to have the right systems that not only serve their purpose well but are also pleasing to the eye. Window World's selection of UPVC windows and doors do just that.



SAFE & PRECISE

Window World has two categories of windows and doors. In "Best Protection", multi-point locking hardware and an internal glazing design are designed to protect your family and property. They are further reinforced with steel to secure against potential intrusion. Windows and doors with "German Precision", on the other hand, keep your interiors dry even in heavy downpours and help to reduce up to 40dB of noise transmission into your home, thanks to water tightness and sound insulation features respectively.





CHOICES APLENTY

There are different types of windows and doors to suit various spatial needs and design wants. Window World has options that include sliding, lift and slide, tilt and turn, slide and fold, casement and spray coated. There are also different systems you can use for more design possibilities. Roller shutters can be added, for instance, if you want extra protection against the sun or if you wish to regulate the temperature inside. For a fancier and more stylish choice, you can opt for louvre shutters.

WINDOWS WORLD PTE LTD
10 Admiralty Street
#02-54 NorthLink Building
tel: 6854 0062 fax: 6754 2354
www.windowworld.sg

stylish SHADES

Six new colours from quartz manufacturer Caesarstone's Classico collection offers you plenty of design possibilities for the surfaces in your home



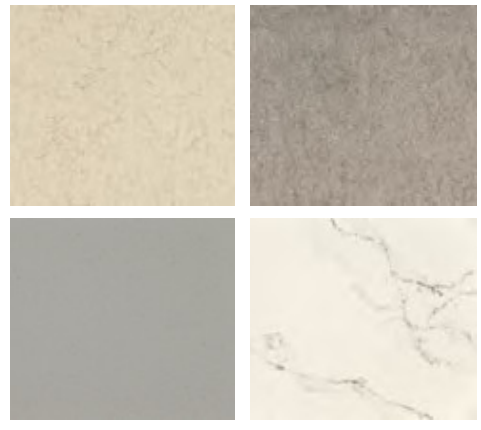
Whether you're going for a sophisticated style for your home or a laidback vibe with an industrial theme, the new colours from Caesarstone's Classico collection, Supernatural and Concrete, will have you covered. The former evokes elegance, while the latter features a more unfinished feel.

MARBLE MARVEL

If you're looking to glam up your home, the new Supernatural designs, which were inspired by some of the world's most beautiful marbles, should be right up your alley. But unlike the porosity of natural marble surfaces, these quartz surfaces are a lot sturdier and more durable. Choose from four designs: Taj Royale exhibits delicate veins and warm hues; Cosmopolitan White is characterised by a whirlpool of streaming, refined shades; Symphony Grey reveals a more dramatic veining with light and dark tones; and Statuario Nuvo, a reinterpretation of the natural Statuario marble, sees impressive dark veins on a white background.

UTILITARIAN APPEAL

Concrete surfaces define the industrial style home. But while natural concrete might spell too much trouble and maintenance, Caesarstone's quartz surfaces in the new Concrete hues give you a more viable alternative. They encompass a similar industrial appeal, just without all the fuss. Fresh Concrete, with its clean and sleek appearance, is a more sophisticated interpretation of white concrete, while those looking to embrace a more rustic look, Raw Concrete captures the spirit of the latest coarse concrete trend.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Taj Royale, Symphony Grey, Statuario Nuvo and Raw Concrete.

CAESARSTONE
10 Bukit Batok Crescent #08-06 The Spire
tel: 6316 1938
www.caesarstone.sg







festive entertaining MADE EASY

Serve beverages in a snap this joyful season with ZIP HydroTap that dispense hot or cold water at a touch of a button



The festive season is all about spending quality time with family and friends. So if you are entertaining this year, you would probably be looking for an effortless way to serve up a delicious feast. With ZIP HydroTap, serving hot or cold drinks and treats is super easy. A water dispenser that delivers water at your desired temperature, the apparatus saves both time and money!

Sporting a sleek design, the ZIP HydroTap is available in three models that provide either boiling and chilled water, boiling and ambient water or boiling water only.

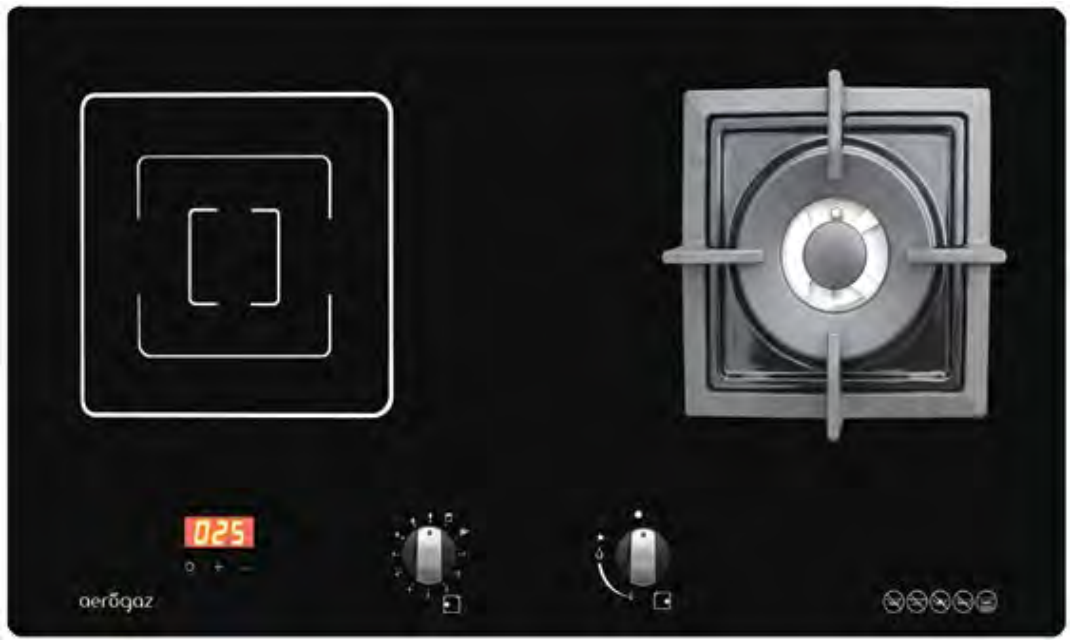
If you prefer one on your kitchen countertop, the optional and specially designed Tap Front advocates water drainage with its drip tray. With this water dispenser, you can make tea, coffee or any hot beverage in a flash and speed up cooking with instant boiling water.

Child safety is also of utmost consideration in the design of the ZIP HydroTap. Your children are protected from accidental hot water spills with the unique childproof safety lock that only dispenses water via a two-finger adult operation. Relax in the comfort that there are no wires and cords to clutter up the kitchen top, reducing the risk of accidental tangles. Efficient and stylish, the ZIP HydroTap is the ultimate kitchen helper for your entertaining needs!

MULTICO BUILDING PRODUCTS PTE LTD
62 Ubi Road 1 #01-05 Oxley BizHub 2
tel: 6283 8888
www.multico.com.sg

BEST OF *both worlds*

Unleash your culinary creativity while staying safe with Aerogaz's latest hybrid hob that marries the benefits of an induction cooker and a gas burner



When shopping for a cooktop, homeowners often face the dilemma of wondering whether they should get an induction or gas hob. There are pros and cons for each, but why not have the best of both worlds by investing in a hybrid hob like Aerogaz's AZ-781FE ($499) The stylish 70-cm glass hob is not only dual purpose, it also comes with safety features for a safer and more stress-free kitchen.



TWO IN ONE

AZ-781FE comes with a 9-power level induction hotplate and a gas burner. What this means is you have the benefit of a faster cooking time with the induction hotplate, since little heat is lost in the cooking process, while still retaining the traditional advantages of cooking with a gas burner. Unlike an induction cooker, a gas burner allows you to whip up dishes using a wide range of cookware not restricted to those made from stainless steel or metal.

SAFETY FIRST

Have a greater peace of mind when you cook thanks to the hob's safety features. The induction hotplate has a timer and temperature control so you set it according to your desired cooking time and temperature. This not only prevents your food from getting burnt, it also helps to avert potential kitchen crises that can be caused by a forgetful elderly or the busy homemaker. The gas burner also has a flame failure device that turns the gas supply off immediately when the flame goes out, preventing any possible gas leakage in the kitchen.

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tel: 6746 9933
www.aerogaz.com

HOE KEE HARDWARE PTE LTD
8 Genting Road, The Blue Building
tel: 6749 4521

1 Kaki Bukit Place
tel: 6745 3839

2 Jurong East Street 21
#03-08 IMM Building
tel: 6563 5088

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tel: 6745 7055
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WIN! BRANDT WTC9670 WASHING MACHINE

WE ARE GIVING AWAY 3 SETS OF BRANDT WTC9670 WASHING MACHINE



Worth $999 each

Small utility room? You won't need to worry with the Brandt WTC9670 washing machine. This top loader is small and compact, yet also packs a punch in specs! The appliance handles a load of 6kg and has multiple programme settings such as Cotton, Synthetics and Rinse.

Find out how to win by visiting the SquareRooms Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/SquareRooms.

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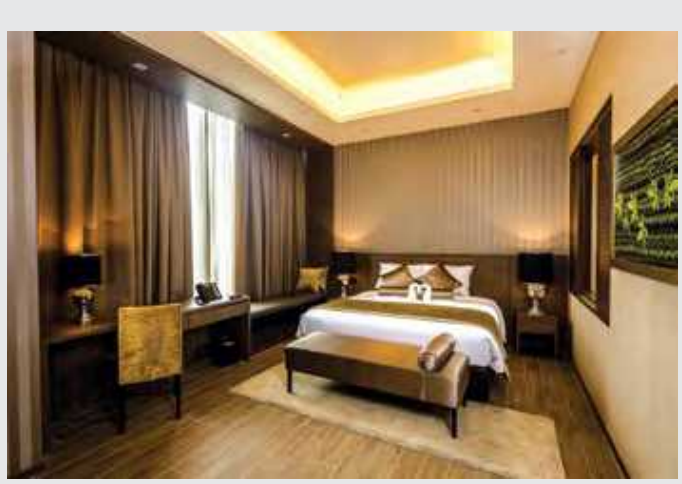
SQUAREROOMS
WWW.SQUAREROOMS.COM.SG

WIN! A 2D/1N STAY AT D'RESORT RAINFOREST PREMIER SUITE

Worth $672



Looking for a getaway this festive period? We have the perfect recommendation. The revamped D'Resort reopened in July this year with a new look. Nestled amongst the lush greenery of Pasir Ris Park, D'Resort is Singapore's first nature-inspired resort with an integrated waterpark experience.
For more information, visit ***www.dresort.com.sg***



Find out how to win by visiting the SquareRooms Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/SquareRooms.

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WIN! A 2D/1N STAY AT THE PAN PACIFIC SINGAPORE WITH PACIFIC CLUB ACCESS



Worth $650



Located in the heart of Marina Bay, Pan Pacific Singapore boasts a spectacular night view of the city lights. Experience the exclusivity that comes with a stay at a Pacific Room with perks such as a champagne breakfast, afternoon tea and sunset cocktails and canapes. For more information, visit ***www.panpacific.com***

Find out how to win by visiting the SquareRooms Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/SquareRooms.

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PAN PACIFIC SINGAPORE

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WIN! A 2D/1N WEEKEND STAY AT THE ROYAL PLAZA ON SCOTTS DELUXE ROOM, INCLUSIVE OF BREAKFAST FOR TWO



Worth $750



Be at the heart of the action this holiday season by enjoying a stay at the Royal Plaza on Scotts. Boasting luxurious furnishings complemented by modern amenities, the hotel is the perfect base to do all your festive shopping and entertaining.
For more information, visit ***www.royalplazagroup.com.sg***

Find out how to win by visiting the SquareRooms Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/SquareRooms.

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RP ROYAL PLAZA ON SCOTTS

INTERIOR DESIGNERS

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www.brimdesign.com.sg

Distinct Identity
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#01-02 Lion Building B
tel: 6846 0033
www.distinctidentity.com.sg

Free Space Intent
8 Ubi Road 2
#02-07 Zervex
tel: 6392 8885
www.fsi.com.sg

Hue Concept Interior Design
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#01-25 Vertex Building
tel: 6636 7202
www.hueconcept.com

Living Gaia Interior
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tel: 6509 8866
www.livinggaia.com.sg

Mong Design Studio
73 Upper Paya Lebar Road
#05-01 Centro Bianco
tel: 6753 3005
www.mongdesignstudio.com.sg

Prozfile Interior Design
1 Starlight Road
tel: 6396 6672
www.prozfile.com.sg

Renozone
1 Jalan Klapa
tel: 6292 3345
www.renozone.com.sg

Rezt & Relax
33 Ubi Avenue 3
#02-09 Vertex Tower B
tel: 6348 7787
www.reztnrelax.com

Sun Hup Interior Contracts
18 Boon Lay Way
#01-98b Tradehub 21
tel: 6795 8998
www.dzignstation.com.sg

The Orange Cube
14 Arumugam Road
#01-03 Lion Building C
tel: 6337 7277
www.theorangecube.com

Z L Construction
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#02-13B Upper Serangoon
Shopping Centre
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www.zlconstruction.com.sg



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#02-01 Ubi Biz-Hub
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www.boconcept.sg

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www.brandt.com.sg

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www.cosentino.com

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www.relitespecialty.com

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www.kitchencultureholdings.com

Megaman Singapore
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#01-32 Jalan Besar Plaza
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www.sg.megaman.cc

OM Furniture
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#02-24 Liang Court
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Pan Pacific Singapore
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Marina Square
tel: 6336 8111
www.panpacific.com

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tel: 6737 7966
www.royalplaza.com.sg

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#01-02 Harbourside Building 1
tel: 6270 8483
www.danishdesignco.com

Deco Breeze
www.decobreeze.com

Dream
456 River Valley Road
tel: 6235 0220
www.dream.com.sg

Evershine
19 Gul Way
tel: 6897 8888
www.evershine.com

Fuse Concept
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tel: 6742 8208
www.fuseconcept.com.sg

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tel: 6786 6868

317 Alexandra Road
tel: 6786 6868
www.ikea.com/sg

Lamitak
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www.lamitak.com

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www.lifestorey.com

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Meter Square
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New Nyew Design
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The Nautical Company
www.thenauticalcompany.com

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LET'S TALK!

Tell us all about your renovation and furnishing preferences! We'd love to hear from you.



FREE INTERIOR DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Materialise your dream home with our team of design professionals!

Personal Details:

Name Age

Title *(Mr/Mrs/Mdm/Ms)

I/C No. Occupation

Phone (Home) (Mobile)

Email

Home Details:

☐ Current Home ☐ Recently Purchased (New) ☐ Recently Purchased (Resale)

Home Address Postal Code

Estimated Budget

No. of Adult Occupants

Expected Date of Key Collection (if Appropriate) Children (if any)

Do you require renovation loans? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, would you like to have a personal banker advise you on renovation loan matters? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Type of new home:

☐ HDB 1-2-Room ☐ HDB 3-Room ☐ HDB 4-Room ☐ HDB Executive / Maisonette ☐ Condominium

☐ Terrace ☐ Semi-detached ☐ Bungalow ☐ Others (Please specify)

Your preferred design style:

☐ Contemporary ☐ Retro/Vintage ☐ Resort ☐ Minimalist ☐ Industrial

☐ Victorian/Baroque ☐ Scandinavian ☐ Modern Asian

Tick which area of advice you require:

☐ Space planning ☐ Flooring ☐ Paint ☐ Laminates/other surfaces ☐ Entertainment appliances

☐ Soft furnishings ☐ Furniture ☐ Sanitary wares ☐ Kitchen appliances

Which are your trusted brands for these home products: (Please fill in every section)

Flooring: Paint:

Furniture: Home accessories:

Kitchen appliances: Entertainment appliances:

Bathroom sanitary wares: Online retailers/others:

What are your reason/s for buying from these brands?

☐ Design ☐ Price ☐ Free delivery ☐ Reliability ☐ Customer service

☐ Variety ☐ Quality

Which section/s do you like best in SquareRooms?

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☐ Simple ☐ Spaces ☐ Surface ☐ Savvy ☐ Small Talk

☐ ProAds ☐ Shortcut

Upon completion of this form, you are entitled to a free interior design plan from our interior design associates. Fax or email this form together with your floor plan to:

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DEC ISSUE 128



MERRY MINIMALISM

Celebrate the most wonderful time of the year by keeping your decor simple

TEXT Ho Pei Ying **PHOTO** Bloomingville

Extend your love for all things Scandinavian by decking your home with Nordic themed Christmas decor. Keep the palette subtle and white, but throw in a pop of holiday hue like a forest green. The Scandinavians love the great outdoors, so bring in natural touches with tree branches and pine cones. Then finish things off by dangling a couple of understated ornaments.

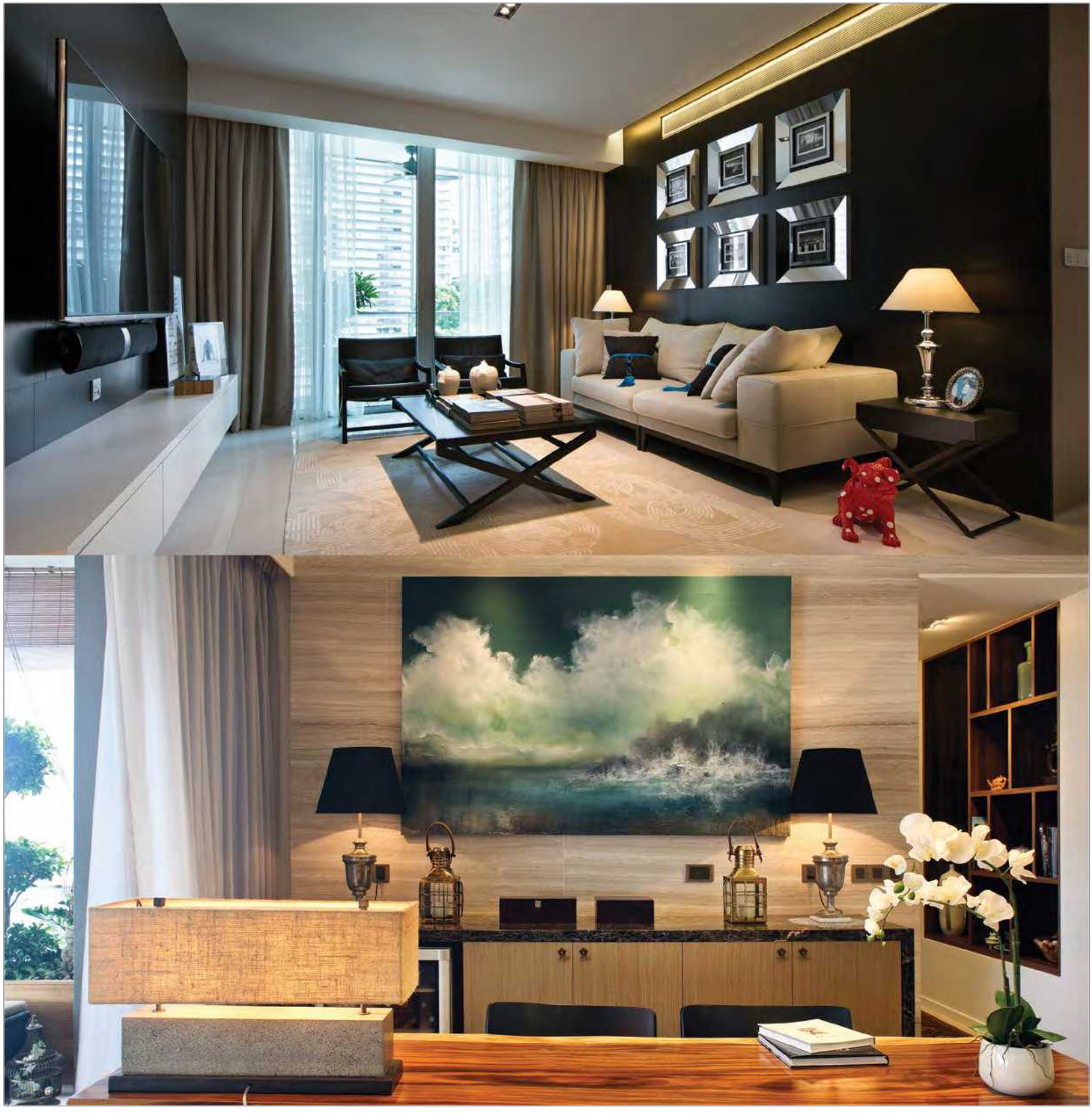
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